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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY at the month-end became very tight. Over the week-end it was as comfortable as ever at 1½ and 1¼ per cent., but on Tuesday 2 per cent. had to be paid at times, and by Wednesday 2 per cent. had become the general rate both for old money and renewals, while borrowers were having to resort to the clearing banks more freely than usual. The following day extreme stringency developed. In the morning, it is true, loans could be fairly easily arranged at 2¼ per cent., but by the afternoon the clearing banks were charging 3½ per cent.

for over-night money, and in some quarters as much as 4 per cent. was being paid. It was, indeed, rumoured that a small amount had had to be borrowed at the Bank, but this did not prove necessary, though it is believed that the Bank did give some assistance by buying end-of-May and early-June maturities at 2 3/32 per cent.

* * * *

There were several explanations for this sudden stringency. First came the Easter currency withdrawals, which took nearly seven millions out of the banks, and so off the market. Next came the final revenue collections of the financial year. A third explanation lay in the recent heavy speculation in sterling, especially in the forward exchange market, which must have entailed an unusually heavy foreign exchange settlement. It is clear that, now that sterling is free to fluctuate and complete freedom to deal in foreign exchanges is permissible, heavy month-end forward exchange settlements on the scale of the years prior to the establishment of the gold standard in 1925 must be anticipated.

* * * *

The main cause of the stringency, however, arose from events at the beginning of this calendar year. It will be recalled that the turn of the year fell in the middle of the week and that, in order to ease the year-end pressure for funds, the market concentrated its application for Treasury bills for that week entirely upon bills due to be paid for upon January 1st and 2nd. It is those bills that are maturing this week, and the bulk of them obviously were not due until Friday and Saturday, April 1st and 2nd. On the other hand, this week's applications for Treasury bills were mainly for those maturing on or before June 30th—so that the market could be placed in funds in readiness for the end of the half-year—and these bills fell due for payment on the earlier days of the week up to and including March 31st. Thus by Thursday the market had paid for all its new bills and had received nothing in respect of its maturing old bills, and so it is not surprising that extreme stringency had developed.

	Mar. 10, 1932.	Mar. 17, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	4	3½	3½	3½	4 (Mar. 17, '32)
Banks' Deposit Rate..	2	1½	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 17, '32)
Discount Houses { Call	2	1½	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 17, '32)
Discount Houses { Notice ...	2½	1½	1½	1½	2½ (Mar. 17, '32)
Market rate ("hot" Treasury bills).....	2½	2 1/16	2	1 15/16–1	...
Market rate (3 months' bank bills)	2½–3½	2½–3½	2½–3½	2–3½	...

* * * *

It is equally obvious that this stringency is a passing phase, for by the end of the week when the old bills have been paid off, money is likely to be as easy as ever. Moreover, the Treasury is about to redeem the balance of its New York credit, and, judging by the experience of a month ago, when the first part of the credit was repaid, the Treasury may well have to add temporarily to the floating debt and so make money more plentiful. The amount being now repaid, however, is far smaller than that repaid in early March. On the other hand, we are now at the beginning of the new financial year, and the Treasury bill issue will henceforward be steadily expanding. So it by no means follows that the unusual ease of recent weeks will persist indefinitely.

* * * *

In the meantime discount rates have been very steady. In view of the general shortage of money, the demand for bills eased off in the middle of the week, but few sellers were in evidence, and the rate of 2 3/32 per cent. offered in connection with the special buying of bills was only accepted with reluctance. Last week's applications for Treasury bills were naturally very heavy, for, in addition to the keen foreign demand, the bills on offer represented the useful end of June maturity. Home applications for the £45.0 millions on offer ran up to £60.8 millions, and the average tender rate was as low as £1 16s. 11.39d. per cent. This week hot Treasury bills have been quoted at 1 15/16 per cent., rising to 1 15/16–1 per cent. on Thursday. Prime bank bills were quoted at 2 per cent. early in the week and 2½ per cent. on Wednesday and Thursday, while standstill bills were quoted at 2½ per cent. all round.

* * * *

Taking this week's and last week's Bank returns together, the total increase in the note circulation over the fortnight was one of £6.8 millions, and the reserve is reduced by the same amount. The revenue influx and, still more, this week's divergence between the dates of Treasury bill payments and maturities has raised Public Deposits to the unusually large figure of £37.3 millions, and has contributed largely towards the reduction of Bankers' Deposits to £54.6 millions, a figure which was fully low enough to explain the temporary stringency. The past fortnight has also witnessed a reduction of £8.1 millions in the Bank's holdings of Government securities and an increase of £17.7 millions in its holdings of other securities. This last movement probably represents absorptions of *devisen* made with the object of checking the appreciation of the pound.

* * * *

Apart from the major question of American public finance and its reaction on the dollar, which is dealt with in a leading article, interest centred this week upon whether or not a reduction in the New York rediscount rate was likely. On Monday the New York Reserve Bank reduced its buying rate for bills from 2½ to 2¼ per cent. for all maturities up to 120 days, and as this move often foreshadows a rediscount rate reduction, many were inclined to look for a change this week. Other authorities, however, regarded the cut in the Reserve Bank's buying rate as nothing more than the consequence of the recent reduction in open market rates, and it was also pointed out that the supply of bankers' acceptances was inadequate to meet the demands of both the Reserve System and outside sources. It was also doubtful if a reduction in rediscount rates would be wise under present circumstances. In the end the Reserve Bank decided to make no change in their rate, which remains at 3 per cent.

* * * *

The foreign exchange market was fairly active this week, and fluctuations were frequent and wide as a result of the weakness of the dollar on the revelations in Congress as to the Budget deficit in the United States. Sterling appreciated strongly against nearly all other currencies. The New York rate rose from 3.84 to 3.89, after touching 3.82. Montreal lost 12 points at 4.10. Paris, after considerable daily fluctuations, was 4 points weaker at 96¾, and Brussels lost a point at 27¼. Milan fell away from 70.25 to 73.00, and Madrid from 49.25 to 50¼. Amsterdam weakened to 9.40 and Berlin from 15.30 to 16.00. Switzerland was very erratic, and weakened from 18.85 to 19.50. The Scandinavian currencies were relatively steady, Stockholm moving in our favour from 18.55 to 18.60, and Oslo from 18.75 to 18.80, whilst Copenhagen was unchanged at 18.15, and Helsingfors at 216. Bucharest was weaker at 645. Quotations of the South American currencies are still largely nominal. Rio lost 1/16d. at 4d., Buenos Aires 1¼d. at 37¼d., and Montevideo 2d. at 29½d. In the Far East the rupee was weaker by 1/16d. at 1s. 6 3/32d., but the yen gained ¼ at 1s. 9¼d. Batavia fell away from 9.10 to 9.45. In the forward market, one month's New York was unchanged at ¾ cents discount, but three months' delivery weakened to 2½ cents discount. One month's Paris gained a point at 8 centimes discount, and three months' also improved by 4 points to 12 centimes discount. Brussels and Madrid were unchanged for both periods. Milan was firmer for one month's delivery at ¼ lira discount, but weaker at ½ lire discount for three. Berlin is still unquoted. Amsterdam was unchanged at 1 and 3 cents discount for the two periods respectively. Switzerland declined from one centime premium to par for one month's delivery, but was unchanged at 2 centimes premium for three. The silver market was quiet. Prices fell away with the rise in sterling, and in the absence of support, cash being ¼d. weaker at 17⅞d., whilst forward recovered at the close and remained unchanged on balance at 17¾d. The China silver exchanges were weaker in sympathy, Hong Kong losing ⅛d. at 1s. 8⅜d., and Shanghai ⅛d. at 1s. 9d.

MR DE VALERA'S PREDICAMENT.

Before commenting on the events which have threatened to disturb the peace of the Irish Free State, and the amity between the Free State and the United Kingdom, during the last few days, it may be well to remind ourselves of certain obvious general considerations. The first of these is that, in the existing situation which Mr de Valera proposes to alter, the Irish are in fact already masters in their own house in the political sense. The second consideration is that in the economic sphere—in which no country in the world is independent of its neighbours—Southern Ireland is not only dependent but overwhelmingly dependent upon the market of the United Kingdom. A third point which is very relevant to the present crisis is that the economic and the political elements in the existing situation are both alike dependent upon a single set of Anglo-Irish arrangements: that is to say, the Articles of Agreement of December 6, 1921, and the various subsidiary agreements, mostly on points of finance, by which these have since been supplemented. The "Dominion of Canada Status" which the Irish Free State at present enjoys or endures (whichever word one chooses to employ) involves those formal, though not substantial, restrictions upon Irish sovereign independence which have caused and are causing such heart-searchings to Mr de Valera and his followers; but the same status equally ensures to Irish farmers that the British market will be open to their produce on the same terms (bettered by geographical proximity) as apply to the produce of Canada and the other self-governing Dominions, whatever terms the United Kingdom may impose upon agricultural imports from foreign countries. It is also in virtue of one of the subsidiary Anglo-Irish financial agreements that the Irish investors who hold about £150,000,000 worth of securities in the United Kingdom are exempted from having to pay double income tax on their incomes.

It is no doubt true that the respective interests of the two parties in the economic and the political aspects of the existing arrangements—if these aspects are considered separately—are unequal. The economic relations which are vital to Ireland are of considerably less importance to Great Britain, while the political relations involved in common membership of the British Commonwealth of Nations are a matter of moment to the Government and people of the United Kingdom, but are apparently irksome to the Irish. An abstraction of the political from the economic aspect of Anglo-Irish relations is, however, quite artificial and misleading. The present relations are in fact an indivisible whole; and, taken as a whole, they are manifestly to the mutual interest of the two countries concerned.

Whence, then, the present trouble? We must say frankly that, in our opinion, the trouble has been created on one side only—and that not the English side—of the Irish Channel. To English eyes it looks as though Mr de Valera were wantonly "asking for trouble." But Mr de Valera himself would probably reply to this that, on the contrary, he is acting under extreme pressure from the left wing of his supporters, and that, if he is making a little trouble at once, he is doing so with the statesmanlike object of preventing, if he can, an outbreak of more serious trouble later on.

In instructing the Irish High Commissioner in London to inform the Government of the United Kingdom, on Sunday, March 22nd, that he did not consider the Oath of Allegiance mandatory in the Treaty, and in declaring in the Senate at Dublin on the same day that he did not propose to continue the payment of the Land Annuities, Mr de Valera was apparently looking forward—on the assumption that he could induce the Government at Westminster to accept his demands—to healing the feud which has continued in Ireland itself ever since the conclusion of the Anglo-Irish Treaty and the defeat of the Republicans by the supporters of the Treaty in the subsequent Irish Civil War. If he can plausibly represent to the [illegible] Irish Republican Army" that he has obtained, by negotiation, the results which the I.R.A. exists in order to secure by force, then he can fairly call upon the I.R.A. to disband. For if the actual Irish Free State becomes identical with the ideal Irish Republic, then the Republicans' justification for maintaining a clandestine and militant "State within the State" is logically removed. This, if we rightly understand it, is Mr de Valera's policy; but its realisation is obstructed by two formidable obstacles. He is unlikely to secure the United Kingdom's assent to his demands for modifications in existing Anglo-Irish arrangements; and supposing that, by a miracle, he does secure this British assent, he is even more unlikely to secure, on that account, the disbandment of the I.R.A.

The temper of the Irish Republican Army is the really serious factor with which all parties have to reckon. That temper was clearly displayed in the parade at Dublin, and the lesser parades in many other places in Ireland, in which the Republicans commemorated on Easter Sunday the rising of Easter, 1916. The demonstrators paraded without arms—though they are believed to have arms in secret storage—and the proceedings were orderly; yet the demonstration was none the less ominous. Nor was this Easter parade really needed to prove the strength of the Republican feeling. That was proved much more effectively by the intense and ever-intensifying campaign of repression which the late Government in the Free State had to maintain in order to hold the Republicans down. There is no doubt that the Republican Movement is a formidable reality.

The worst of it is that this formidable movement cannot easily be placated by anything that either Mr de Valera or the Government at Westminster can do. If they succeed, between them, in removing this or that specific Republican grievance, the Republicans are only too likely to thank them for nothing and to set about finding some new grievances instead. For it is not any specific living grievances that make this Irish Republicanism implacable. Implacability itself is its mission and its *raison d'être*. Its stimuli, so far as we can discern them, are not specific remediable grievances but irrational and imponderable psychological forces. Irish Republicanism feeds, and feeds chiefly, we believe, on a past which is over and done with in fact, but is unforgotten and perhaps unforgettable in the minds of the generation in Ireland which was already full grown by the time when peace was established by the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1921. Then there is a younger generation which joins the I.R.A. because it is baulked of the old Irish outlet of emigration overseas. In the third place there is the world economic crisis: a force which has precipitated revolutions during the last year or so in most of the Latin American countries, has been the making of Hitlerism in Germany, and has impelled the Japanese to run amok in the Far East. In Ireland, as a matter of fact, the incidence of the economic crisis has been less severe than in most countries. The Irish farmer —who is the typical Irish *homo economicus*—has not been hit so hard as his North American or Central European *confrères*. All the same, we may safely credit the crisis with a share in the maintenance of the implacable Republican spirit.

It is this spirit in the left wing of Mr de Valera's followers that makes the legal issues which he has raised rather serious. In themselves they are not vastly important, and on their merits he has not a leg to stand on; but they have to be taken seriously because they are symbolic.

As to the Treaty Oath, which is the symbol of membership in the British Commonwealth, it is perhaps sufficient to observe that as a matter of fact an oath of allegiance is taken by the members of all the parliaments in the British Empire, including Canada, and it is provided in the Agreement of 1921 that "the general constitutional position of the Irish Free State should be the same as that of Canada." This surely shows the intention with

which the form of oath was incorporated in the Agreement, and disposes of Mr de Valera's contention that it is not mandatory. Since, apparently, no fresh oath-taking falls due in Ireland for five years to come, it is perhaps premature to speculate upon the legal effect of a default. We imagine that, if the Oath is an integral part of the Agreement, and if a failure to renew the Oath legally causes the Agreement to lapse, then Southern Ireland automatically reverts to its previous legal status as an integral part of the United Kingdom. Or, on the contrary, does failure to renew the Oath automatically sever the links between the Free State and the British Empire? The Irish Republicans fancy that they would love to have it so; but would they really? Let us suppose that a non-renewal of the Oath on the part of members of the Dail automatically deprives Irish imports into the United Kingdom of Imperial preference. What will the Irish farmers say then to the Irish Republican Party's policy? At any rate, if that situation arises, we have a shrewd idea of what the Danish farmers will do. They will assuredly besiege the Parliament House at Copenhagen and compel their own M.P.s to take the Oath to His Britannic Majesty forthwith! So much for the Oath.

As for the Land Purchase Annuities, these are private debts from Irish ex-tenants, who are still paying by instalments for land, of which they have already entered into possession, to the present holders, whoever they happen to be (and they happen mostly to be Irish people domiciled in Ireland), of the bonds in which the Irish ex-landlords have been paid for land with which they have already parted. The Government of the Irish Free State, which collects the annuities from the debtors, and the United Kingdom National Debt Commissioners, who receive the money from Dublin and pay it out again to the bondholders, are merely acting as clearing-houses in what is essentially a private transaction. There is, it is true, a balance of Land Purchase Stock the service of which is not covered by the private debtors' annual payments; and this balance requires the finding from other sources of about £1,100,000 per annum; but only £134,000 of this annual balance is found by the Irish Free State Government, the remainder being paid by the Government of the United Kingdom. The Irish Government has actually paid over the annuities themselves from the beginning, and has expressly pledged itself to the present arrangement in the two Anglo-Irish financial agreements of February 12, 1926, and March 19, 1926. On the other side, the United Kingdom has remitted to the Free State that "equitable proportion" of the United Kingdom National Debt and War Pensions for which the Irish made themselves responsible in the Agreement of 1921.

The United Kingdom's case does not need, as Mr de Valera's case needs, to be laboured. It is intrinsically and manifestly so strong that the Government at Westminster can afford to go slow and speak gently though plainly in this controversy. On this matter we shall know more when the official correspondence of the last few days is published at the end of this week. But this controversy lies on the surface. The real problem—and it is Mr de Valera's problem more than Mr MacDonald's or even Mr Cosgrave's—is the temper of the I.R.A.

WASHINGTON AND THE DOLLAR.

DURING the Easter holidays the international markets in foreign exchange treated the world to a startling and most unwelcome display of pyrotechnics. On the eve of Good Friday, sterling was bought heavily in London, Continental purchasers being much in evidence; the Bank of England either withdrew temporarily from the market as a seller of pounds or its operations could not suffice to meet the demand for sterling, and the dollar rate rose from 3.64 to 3.71. On Saturday it became apparent that the strength of the pound was attributable to marked weakness of the dollar which depreciated further to 3.76½; and, on Monday, when the market in London was closed, sterling in New York rose to 3.82¼, while the franc reached $3.94½ for 100francs against parity $3.91¼. Extensive sales of dollars in New York against purchases of sterling suggest that French and other Continental balances held in that centre were being temporarily transferred to London. On Tuesday, when the London market reopened, sterling reacted to 3.78 after opening at 3.82; and on the following day the dollar recovered further to 3.72¼, these being no signs on either day of active intervention on the part of the Bank of England. Thus the sharp upward fluctuations in the pound which developed during the week-end had been to some extent smoothed out by Wednesday evening, though not before sufficiently disturbing movements had occurred in the sterling prices of the leading internationally-traded commodities.

The primary cause of this renewed embarrassing movement of short-term funds to London is clearly to be sought not so much in belief abroad that sterling is undervalued —though confidence in the strength of the British financial position, augmented this week by the news of the repayment of the outstanding balance of the Treasury's New York credits, is still an important underlying factor— as in a somewhat exaggerated wave of distrust regarding the future stability of the dollar, which was created by political developments in Washington last Thursday. On that day the House of Representatives, which was dealing with the Tax Bill designed to fill the estimated gap of $1,240 millions between revenue and expenditure in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1932, decided by 220 votes to 153 to strike out from that measure the Sales Tax provisions, estimated to yield about $560 millions. As our New York correspondent observes in a despatch which we print on a later page, the proposed 2½ per cent. tax on manufactured products had already been modified by certain exemptions, but considerable opposition had been mobilised, not without economic force, against a form of taxation which is apt to be passed on to the consumer with accretions *en route*. There was, in fact, a strong case for the rejection of a Sales Tax, always provided that alternative sources of revenue were sought. The attitude of Congress, however, during the debate on Thursday appears to have created the impression that, with the power of the "machine" much weakened by the present even distribution of parties, the House of Representatives, concerned predominantly with forthcoming electoral considerations, did not intend to adhere to the straight and narrow path of achieving a balanced Budget by taxation, but was prepared to create the risk of inflation by allowing the gap to be bridged by further Treasury borrowing. Another factor conducive to mistrust of the position was the Bill which is being promoted by a Texan Senator to provide some $2,500 millions for encashment of outstanding war veterans' bonus certificates. These events were the signal, not merely for an ominous movement of exchanges, but also for a slump in the stock markets.

Fortunately, reassurance was forthcoming on Tuesday. After an impressive warning against "playing politics while the dollar burned" had been delivered by Mr Garner, the Democrat Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee introduced fresh proposals providing for a slight further screwing up of income tax and sur-tax, levies of 4 cents a share on stock sales, and of ½ per cent. on bond transfers, and a wide range of luxury duties, which, in conjunction with an increase of from 2 to 3 cents in the first-class postal rates, were estimated to be sufficient to ensure a small surplus over prospective expenditure for 1932-33. The fate of the amended Tax Bill still remains to be decided, and the world is all too painfully aware of the unexpected "snags" which crop up unexpectedly in the American legislature; but at the moment of writing it seems that the Lower House of Congress has executed a complete *volte face* and that adequate steps to ensure a balanced Budget next year will eventually be taken. This being so, it may be presumed that European panic with regard to the dollar will subside. Indeed, though too much importance should not be attached to coincidence of gold shipments previously arranged from New York to Paris—it would not be surprising if these consignments were a reflection of central banking co-operation—opinion regarding the future American currency was considerably reassured by the middle of the week.

As we have said, we can find little justification for the extreme pessimism which appears to have been occasioned by the temporary failure of Congress to live up to

the budgetary situation. In the case of such a country as the United States, with its creditor position on foreign payments account, its surplus of exports over merchandise imports, and its holding of well over $1,000 millions of "free" gold, it is a long step from one or two unbalanced Budgets to enforced recourse to the printing press. During the past decade the internal debt of the United States has been enormously reduced, and such expansion of credit as would be brought about by Treasury borrowing for Budget purposes would not necessarily be alarming or even disadvantageous. Even if the present Congress, notwithstanding the great untapped resources of America, should shrink from imposing sufficiently drastic taxation to obviate some deficit in 1932-33, it is difficult to foresee a resulting situation which would drive the dollar off the gold standard, unless public opinion in America became so alarmed as to the future that a wholesale domestic flight from the dollar developed.

In saying this we do not wish to imply that the United States can afford any more than other countries to underrate the seriousness of the situation, or that, if it is not firmly handled, periods of danger may not yet recur. Indeed, wise men will in these days endeavour to prepare themselves for every possibility. Even though the House of Representatives fully makes amends for its apparent irresponsibility of last Thursday, and even though it may be taken for granted that the veterans' war bonus proposals will not survive the Presidential veto, each week of the continued crisis renders it more questionable whether the "anti-deflation" measures, represented by the Financial Reconstruction Corporation and the Glass-Steagall Banking Act, will suffice to lift the strain of a depression whose psychological and material repercussions on the economic life of America cannot be lightly contemplated. The threatened Budget deficit is after all only one symptom of a critical economic situation which embraces the whole of American enterprise from the banking system and the railroads to the majority of the large industrial corporations. The world crisis, in fact, has reached a point at which even the strongest countries are subject to waves of mistrust, resulting in rapid and disturbing flights of capital from one country to another.

Until the United States at all events is free from such uncertainties, other countries cannot finally determine their monetary policy; for clearly, in the unlikely event of the suspension of the convertibility of the dollar, the repercussions throughout the world would be very serious. It is true that many central banks have taken warning from their unhappy experience in the case of the pound last September and have acquired gold instead of foreign exchange. It is true also that, in spite of New York's monetary importance, the dollar does not play as universal a *rôle* in world commerce as the "sterling" bill. Moreover, although the exchange rate of a "free" dollar in terms of gold is incalculable, there is no reason to fear that after the first flutter the dollar would seriously depreciate either in terms of gold currencies or of a free currency such as sterling. If the dollar were to go, it would be through the breakdown of the machinery for stabilising exchanges during an unexampled dislocation of trade and finance and our inability to control capital movements—not because there is any need to readjust American prices to world levels as was the case with Great Britain. But the "suspension" would undoubtedly mean that other countries which are maintaining a precarious and artificial hold upon gold would loosen their grip, and in some of these cases the result would be a currency slump which could not be controlled. In any case, an American suspension would mean another period of doubt. Its worst effect would be that it would almost certainly precipitate currency chaos—or an almost complete closing down of international [illegible].

London is not only a focal point on which such disturbances would inevitably be concentrated, but is [illegible] the influences of movements of capital which are the symptoms of uneasiness. Opinion is, therefore, growing in many quarters—particularly in industrial circles where the inconvenience resulting from violent movements of the sterling exchange is most felt—that we should end exchange fluctuations by venturing forthwith to revalorise the pound at its present level. Greatly as we sympathise with the difficulties of industrialists in a situation of chaotic exchange fluctuations, we would hesitate to endorse such a proposal while the future of political international relationships is still so obscure and the course of gold prices still so uncertain. We cannot steady the situation by acting alone. Indeed, it is beginning at the wrong end for any one country to attempt to do so. For the Bank of England to peg the exchange at a specified figure, even as a temporary measure, would be a hazardous undertaking, unless it were very sure of its final goal; for, as the experience of the Bank of France has shown, if a rate is once fixed it is extremely hard to let it go, and if it proves to be the wrong figure and has to be abandoned it may be followed by something in the nature of a landslide. In the circumstances, in spite of all the disadvantages, it is difficult to see how the Bank of England can do anything other than endeavour to punish the speculator and to neutralise by buying devisen capital movements which are obviously temporary.

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.
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A GREAT BUDGET FEAT.

THE expectation that in spite of all the troubles of the past year Great Britain would achieve a balanced Budget has been fulfilled, and the country may well congratulate itself upon a very remarkable achievement. Six months ago the heavy burden of providing for our unemployed and the treacherous device of meeting what we hoped would be a temporary charge by resorting to borrowing made the task look very formidable. But a courageous lead and an appeal to the patriotism of the taxpayer—aided by what is probably the most efficient tax-raising machine in the world—have achieved the desired result and placed our finances in a position which may well be the envy of other nations.

Three weeks ago we ventured a forecast that, with the help of £23 millions (including interest), which Mr Snowden proposed to take into the year's revenue from the dollar exchange reserve fund, there would be a surplus of £13 millions. Actually, the results achieved would show, on this basis, a surplus of £10¼ millions. But as the dollar reserve fund consists of money voted during the war, and is a "nest egg" that has been lying by for many years, the Treasury has quite reasonably drawn upon it only to the extent of the £12¾ millions needed to square accounts and give a modest margin of £364,000.

In order to appreciate the nature of the effort that has been made, it is useful to recall the sequence of events of the last twelve months. A year ago, in spite of the fact that he was borrowing substantial sums to meet the deficit in the Unemployment Insurance Fund and that he proposed to reduce the fixed debt charge by £5 millions, Mr Snowden found, when he came to present his accounts for 1931-32, that his prospective revenue was £37½ millions short of his estimated expenditure. He met only £7½ millions of this gap by taxation, namely, an additional 2d. per gallon on petrol, the rest being covered by withdrawing £20 millions (besides the accumulated interest) from the exchange reserve fund and the balance of £10 millions by calling upon the income tax payer to pay three-quarters of his tax during the fiscal year, instead of one-half as hitherto. But this was the last of the makeshift Budgets, and the events of the summer quickly led to the great

effort of September last. The three outstanding points of the Emergency Budget were: (a) Borrowing for the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the Road Fund ceased; (b) economies in expenditure were introduced amounting to £70 millions in a full year; and (c) new taxation, estimated to yield £81½ millions in a full year, was imposed. For the year ended this week Mr Snowden had further to fill a big gap left by the need of revising downward his estimates of revenue, his second guess being practically £30 millions down as compared with his estimate five months before. Altogether, Mr Snowden was faced in the year 1931-32 with a deficit of £74.7 millions, which he arranged to cover by the following means: He expected his new taxes to yield an additional £40.5 millions before the year ended; he anticipated that his economies would save £22 millions of expenditure in the last half of the year, and he provided for the balance by reducing the Sinking Fund still further to £32½ millions. The additional taxation which he expected to obtain during the year was made up as follows:—

ADDITIONAL TAXATION, 1931–32.

Estimated Yield.

(Million £.)

	April Budget.	September Budget.	Total.
Income Tax	10	25	35
Surtax	...	4	4
Customs and Excise	7·5	11·5	19
Total	17·5	40·5	58

These new sources of revenue together with the other changes already referred to enabled him to frame the following final Budget for the year in comparison with that of 1930-31:—

	Actual 1930–31.	Final Estimate 1931–32.		Actual 1930–31.	Final Estimate 1931–32.
	£ Mn.	£ Mn.		£ Mn.	£ Mn.
Customs & Excise	245·4	253·0	Cons. Fund.....	302·5	298·8
Inland Revenue	431·0	451·0	Supply Services	429·9	451·8
Motor Duties ...	4·9	5·0	Sinking Fund...	66·8	32·5
Non-Tax Revenue	94·6	75·7	Surplus	...	1·6
Deficit	23·3	...			
Total*.....	799·2	784·7	Total* ...	799·2	784·7

* Excluding self-balancing items.

The extent to which these expectations have been realised is shown in detail in the following summary of actual receipts and issues published on Thursday night:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1931–32.

(000's omitted.)

REVENUE.	Exchequer Receipts.	Larger (+) or Smaller (−) than 1930–31 Receipts.	EXPENDITURE.	Exchequer Issues.	Larger (+) or Smaller (−) than 1930–31 Expenditure.
	£	£		£	£
Customs	136,152	+ 14,751	National Debt Services:		
Excise	119,900	− 4,100	Interest and Management	289,492	− 3,678
Total Customs and Excise	256,052	+ 10,651	New Sinking Fund (1928)	32,508	− 34,322
Income Tax	287,367	+ 31,320	Total Debt Services	322,000	− 38,000
Surtax	76,700	+ 8,870			
Estate, &c., Duties	65,000	− 17,610	Northern Ireland Exchequer	6,347	− 78
Stamps	17,070	− 3,580	Local Taxation Accounts, Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,052	+ 156
E.P.D., &c.*	2,500	− 500			
Land Tax, &c.	850	+ 20	Total	9,399	+ 78
Total Inland Revenue	449,487	+ 18,520			
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,961	+ 35	Total Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	439,200	+ 9,350
Total Tax Revenue	710,500	+ 29,206			
Crown Lands	1,250	− 30			
Sundry Loans	13,810	− 19,081			
Miscellaneous Receipts	29,913	− 4,417			
Appropriation from Rating Relief Suspense Account	3,990	− 12,010			
Post Office, net receipts	11,500	+ 1,400	Total Expenditure (except Self-balancing)	770,599	− 38,572
Total Non-Tax Revenue	60,463	− 34,138			
Total Ordinary Revenue	770,963	− 4,932	Self-balancing Expenditure:—		
			Post Office	58,000	− 1,000
Self-balancing Revenue:			Road Fund	22,519	− 347
Post Office	58,000	− 1,000			
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,519	− 347	Total Self-balancing Expenditure	80,519	− 1,347
Total Self-balancing Revenue	80,519	− 1,347	Surplus	394	+ 33,640
Grand Total	851,482	− 6,279	Grand Total	851,482	− 6,279

* Including Corporation Profits Tax.

A few outstanding facts emerge from this table. The first is the very great increase in the receipts of income tax and super tax, which are not merely consistently in excess of the amounts received a year ago but have improved on the estimates of last September, the amounts received being £287.4 millions and £76.7 millions respectively, compared with estimates of £272 millions and £78 millions. On the other hand, estate duties have only yieded £65 millions, which is £18 millions less than the estimate—a drop largely no doubt to be accounted for by the depreciation of the securities included in the estate that have become subject to duty; while Stamps have produced £3 millions less than the estimate. Customs and Excise have exceeded the estimate by £3 millions, but of this £2 millions is due to new import duties under the various Acts that have been passed by the present Government.

On the expenditure side, the issues for the supply services amounted to £439.2 millions, against Mr Snowden's final estimate of £451.8 millions. The savings achieved this year have therefore amounted to £12.6 millions instead of the £22 millions which the late Chancellor anticipated. The chief reason for the additional saving is, of course, the fortunate fact that whereas Mr Snowden budgetted on the assumption of an unemployment figure of three millions, we have got through the winter with an average of less than 2¾ millions.

But before congratulating ourselves too wholeheartedly on the results of the past year it must not be overlooked that although our statutory Sinking Funds have been maintained, there has been an actual increase in debt when all items are taken into account. Including the surplus, £33 millions have nominally been credited to Sinking Fund. Aagainst this there have to be set £20.6 millions borrowed for Unemployment Insurance Benefit and £8.4 millions borrowed for Savings Certificate interest not covered by the debt charge, while £9 millions of the principal withdrawn from the dollar exchange reserve fund represent a capital asset used for revenue. Balancing these various items, the Sinking Fund shows a real deficit of £24 millions. This calculation, of course, ignores our international payments and receipts on account of reparations and war debts, which should normally balance but are now in suspense. Nor does it take into reckoning the loss on exchange involved in the repayments of the Franco-American credits obtained last summer. Mr Chamberlain has stated that it may be possible to offset against this loss the advantage of an enhanced value in sterling of our gold reserves, but unless the pound is finally stabilised at or below its present figure, this benefit will not be realised. In view of the uncertainty as to the final value of the pound, it would be prudent to make provision for a contingent loss under this head.

To sum up, the nation's accounts tell the story of a remarkable achievement, and had Death been more relentless in his dealings with the richer section of the population, the results would have looked even more satisfactory. As it is the remarkable performance of the income tax payer, who has played so large a part in restoring the financial ship to an even keel, and the rapidity with which the yawning deficit of last autumn has been covered, are, despite the minor reservations which we have made, matter for sincere satisfaction. But this legitimate satisfaction must not delude the taxpayer into the belief that the next Budget, which Mr. Chamberlain will introduce on April 19th, can very greatly relieve the burdens which he has been asked to carry. The calculations which we made a fortnight ago suggest that the Chancellor may have a surplus of revenue over expenditure in the coming year of the order of £25 millions with which to satisfy the hungry claims of claimants for relief. But the figure of next year's prospective surplus will be in some respects illusory. The sinking fund, as we have pointed out, needs fortification as soon as circumstances permit; the equation between international debt receipts and payments remain uncertain; world conditions are not such that a rise in unemployment can be ruled out of the list of possibilities. Indeed, all the circumstances indicate the necessity for caution; and in any case justice demands that whatever favours the Chancellor is properly able to distribute should be allocated

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out to one section alone, but with full regard to one of the initial pledges given by the National Government, namely that the aim to be pursued was an equality of national sacrifice. As and when improved conditions allow burdens to be lightened, such relief must be spread in equitable proportions among all who have been called upon to bear the brunt of a national emergency.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

A Conservative Minister of Health could hardly have hoped for an easy time in persuading a Standing Committee of the present House of Commons to accept, as in the main a non-contentious measure, a Bill which was described by a former Labour Minister (Mr Morrison) as a piece of the finest Socialistic legislation ever brought before the House. Sir Edward Hilton Young has, indeed, found the Standing Committee which has been considering the Town and Country Planning Bill far from docile, and in spite of his warnings their labours have rendered the measure, in his own words, "unworkable." That he must attempt some form of compromise with the Conservative mutineers if the Bill is to proceed further is clear; that he will try to persuade the House to undo at the Report stage some of the Committee's work is equally certain. But it is not so obvious how far he will be able to carry the mass of Conservative back-benchers with him or whether, inflamed by the example of the United States Congress, the party may not pull a long nose at its leaders. Among the rebels in Committee were two Parliamentary Private Secretaries, Captain Waterhouse and Mr M. W. Beaumont, who are reported to have sought, somewhat impertinently and very ominously for the future of party discipline under a "National" Government, to justify their defiance of the Whips by pleading the precedent of the "agreement to differ" over the Import Duties Bill.

The Town and Country Planning Bill, which has the support—as recent amendments equally have the opposition—of the Town Planning Institute, the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and a great many other interested bodies, as well as of the chief local authorities and statutory regional committees, was introduced in the last Parliament after consultation with land-owners and house property-owners, sent down in a slightly amended form by the Standing Committee as an agreed measure, reintroduced in this Parliament by the new Government, and given a second reading without a division. It repeals the Town Planning Act of 1925, and those parts of the Local Government Act of 1929 which made county councils planning authorities, and it consolidates and enlarges the powers conferred on local bodies and on the Minister by those measures. Local authorities are given power (*inter alia*) to combine together in prescribing the form of development to be permitted over wide areas, including urban, suburban and rural districts. The Manchester regional scheme, for instance, which it is hoped to enforce under the new provisions, involves eighty local authorities. The essential innovation of the Bill is to extend planning powers to built-up areas, and it is therefore of special interest to great cities like London or the industrial cities of the North whose development has hitherto been haphazard and uncontrolled. Schemes may prescribe the number of buildings to be erected in any area and the space to be left open round such buildings; may regulate their design, appearance or use; reserve areas suitable for use either as public or as private open spaces; control the display of advertisements; and reserve lands for widening or constructing roads.

Amendments made in Committee alter the Bill in two really important respects. Sir Edward Hilton Young has been forced to concede that resolutions by local authorities to prepare planning schemes shall be subject to approval by the Minister, who shall not give his consent unless he is satisfied that, in the case of any land already built upon, public improvements are likely to be made or other developments are likely to take place "within such a period of time and on such a scale as to make the inclusion of the land in a scheme expedient." While that sounds innocent enough, its effect would clearly to be compel local authorities to apprise the Minister of the details of future development in the areas which they were seeking to "plan" at a stage when, normally, such details could not possibly be known. They would thus be severely handicapped in seeking to promulgate schemes for the sane development of built-over areas any considerable time before the opportunity of embarking on large public improvements might arise, whereas the only hope of reforming urban areas lies in planning far ahead of imminent necessity. A further amendment carried in Committee makes it compulsory for local authorities to pay compensation to owners of property, who claim that they are prejudicially affected by a scheme, before the scheme has been actually enforced. The Bill, it may be said, made ample provision for compensation after the loss of property-owners could be properly ascertained, and allowed local authorities the option—which it was expected they would exercise in all cases of hardship—of paying compensation at the earlier stage. If they are to be loaded from the start with the burden of hypothetical damage, authorities will obviously be most reluctant to initiate planning schemes. It was this amendment which drew from the Minister his declaration of despair.

These wrecking amendments appear to have been made at the behest of the National Federation of Property Owners and Ratepayers, which has been conducting a vigorous campaign against the Bill. Landowners do not appear to be dissatisfied with the measure; for they probably realise that in the long run no one stands to gain more from a controlled development of both urban and rural areas than the landlords, who would be thus protected against the corruption of the countryside and the confusion of the towns, with all the accompanying depression of site values. The urban property owners apparently have still to learn that elementary lesson. They and their parliamentary spokesmen would also do well to remember that the electorate did not eject the representatives of sectionalism last October merely in order to make room for sectionalism of another colour.

CANADIAN NEWSPRINT.

(BY OUR OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT.)

The Canadian newsprint industry is struggling with grave difficulties. They began half a dozen years ago, when greedy entrepreneurs and company promoters, working in alliance with complaisant politicians, were allowed to create a serious condition of over-production which brought prices down to an unprofitable level; and they have been enormously aggravated by the great American slump which, by its drastic curtailment of advertisements, has seriously reduced the demand of the market normally absorbing more than seven-eighths of Canada's output. The following statistics give a picture of the position of the

industry in regard to production, exports and domestic consumption in recent years:—

	Production. Tons.	Export. Tons.	Domestic consumption. Tons.
1920	876,000	762,000	114,000
1928	2,381,000	2,207,000	174,000
1929	2,729,000	2,511,000	218,000
1930	2,505,000	2,331,000	173,000
1931	2,221,000	2,008,000	213,000

Output more than trebled itself between the years 1920 and 1929, but since then there has been a sharp recession, wholly attributable to the curtailment of exports. Figures of shipments in the past two years are given below:—

	1930. Tons.	1931. Tons.
United Kingdom	134,639	104,027
Cuba	9,733	5,196
Jamaica	1,111	1,083
Argentina	82,285	44,295
Other Latin America	7,795	12,038
South Africa	15,964	14,744
Australia	45,096	29,502
New Zealand	21,670	14,673
All other	6,707	29,265
Overseas	325,000	254,823
To United States	2,006,011	1,753,414
Total	2,331,011	2,008,237

During 1931, according to the Newsprint Service Bureau, the operating ratio of the Canadian mills ranged between 50 and 60 per cent. of their capacity; by December it had shrunk to 51.3 per cent. The Newsprint Bureau has now announced the cessation of its monthly reports on operating ratios, and in explaining this decision points out that

"not only are there no more machines building but it is also obvious that some machines cannot be profitably operated at present price levels. In other words, the capacity of the industry for practical purposes cannot be determined by compiling the possible speeds and trims of all existing machines—whether they are running or not—but is definitely limited by a multitude of economic factors."

It is well known to people acquainted with the industry that many machines in Canadian newsprint plants are obsolete, or the plants loaded with capital charges prohibitive of their profitable operation at the present price of newsprint; and the Bureau's statement is a frank admission that the rated capacity of 12,376 tons per diem does not coincide with the capacity which can at present be profitably employed. It is known, moreover, that certain of the larger mills, which are more happily situated in regard to pulpwood supplies, transportation facilities and other factors, have been operating far above the average ratio, while the remainder have had an operating ratio of well under 40, which is obviously hopeless from the viewpoint of dividends. But even the largest and strongest companies are sailing in troubled waters. The report of the Abitibi Power and Paper Company, Limited, for 1931 reveals that earnings for the year were $5,397,152, as compared with $7,374,338 in 1930, and that after bond interest and other obligations had been met, there was left for the other securities a margin of $1,301,973. A reduction of stocks, effected by using accumulated woodpiles and refraining from buying fresh supplies, has enabled a bank loan of $4½ millions to be reduced to $2,150,000, but the directors do not feel justified in resuming dividend payments on the preferred stocks, which were suspended some time ago. The stock market's appraisal of the value of the company's common stock, which has been without a dividend for a considerable period, can be gauged by the fact that it is selling at between 2 and 3 as compared with a peak of above 80 in 1927.

In the last quarter of 1931 the Canadian newsprint companies were deriving considerable profits from the premium on the American dollar which existed in Canada, but this advantage was only temporary, as the general upheaval in the exchanges put the newsprint manufacturers of Northern Europe in a position to reinforce the strenuous efforts which they had previously been making to secure a larger share of the American newsprint market. The result has been that, whereas the United States' imports of newsprint for the first eleven months of 1931 showed a general decline of about 9 per cent., combined imports from Finland, Sweden, Norway and Germany actually showed an increase during this period of 15.5 per cent., and the gain largely occurred in the latter part of the year. It is true that the Canadian mills still only suffer from European competition in the areas bordering on the Atlantic and Pacific seaboards and the Gulf of Mexico, and that the more favourable location of the Canadian mills will preserve their market in inland cities like Chicago and St. Louis; but the newsprint consumption of the great cities situated on the seaboard is so large that European competition has to be reckoned with as a serious factor. Recent despatches from the Pacific coast indicate that the Scandinavian mills were offering newsprint at Los Angeles and San Francisco at prices substantially under those sought by the Canadian companies. Accordingly, over a large part of the United States the Canadian mills have been compelled to meet the prices of their European competitors and have thereby had to yield practically all the benefit derived from the premium upon the American dollar. There is to-day a certain mystery about the prevailing price of newsprint, but as a result of the latest cut, which was made towards the close of 1931, the average price now being received by Canadian mills does not exceed $50 net per ton.

Negotiations for a gigantic merger of as many as possible of the newsprint companies of Canada have been proceeding intermittently for many months, but so far have not come to any practical fruition. Most of the leaders of the industry are convinced that such a merger, which would make possible great administrative economies and might also offer an instrument for a certain measure of price control, is the only real solution of the industry's troubles; but the fundamental difficulty is that the directors of practically every newsprint corporation have a higher estimate of the value of their properties than others are willing to concede. It is an open secret in Montreal that not long ago one of the most influential personages in the Canadian business world convened a meeting of the leaders of the newsprint industry, and, confronting them with a committee of eminent bankers, informed them that as the situation of the industry was desperate and they had failed to reach any agreement among themselves, they must, if they wanted to avert a complete *débâcle*, consent to accept this committee of experienced bankers as arbiters about the value of their respective properties and the securities covering them. Most of the newsprint men who were present acquiesced in the proposal, some with obvious reluctance, but the representatives of two important units of the industry firmly declined to participate in any merger. Great pressure was brought to bear upon the dissentients, but they were not to be cajoled into any merger, and, as their inclusion was almost essential to its success, the architects of the project have for the time being suspended their efforts. Their present fear is that certain mills, which are in a receivership or about to suffer this fate, will be picked up on the bargain counter by American interests, who will wipe out all the junior securities and so be able to produce newsprint at an even lower price than now prevails. It is known that a group of American papers have been negotiating for the acquisition of a large newsprint plant in Ontario which has reached the end of its financial tether and has been shut down.

One interesting recent development in the newsprint situation has been the visible lukewarmness of the Canadian newsprint companies towards the campaign which Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook were waging for the application of the British 10 per cent. tariff to foreign newsprint with preferential free entry for Dominion newsprint. Not only did the leaders of the newsprint industry in Canada see no advantage in such a tariff preference for themselves, but they visualised possible disadvantages. They have never been able to do much business in the open newsprint market in Britain owing to the lower production costs and closer proximity of their Scandinavian competitors; and, in the present state of the international monetary exchanges, their competitive position in the British market has become worse. A 10 per cent. preference would be quite inadequate to overcome the heavy differential now existing between the

Canadian and Scandinavian currencies in relation to sterling; and, if the Scandinavian newsprint now sold mainly in Britain lost this market it would in all probability be shipped to the United States, which it can enter without any duty. The result would be a further demoralisation of the newsprint market of the U.S.A., and as the Canadian newsprint interests regard its recovery as their paramount need, they do not want to encourage any developments which might retard this.

Nor is there any demand among the Canadian producers of wood pulp for preferential tariff treatment in Britain, because they know the costs of producing and transporting Scandinavian pulp are so much lower than their own that only a duty intolerable to British paper-makers could give them a share of the British market. Again, when a 50 per cent. dumping duty was imposed by the British Government on wrapping paper last autumn it was predicted in some quarters that Canada would benefit greatly, but so far there has been no noticeable increment of business to Canadian mills from this move. What the leaders of the pulp and paper industry in Canada realise, with a clarity denied to their would-be allies in Britain, is that their true interest lies in Britain's absorbing as large a volume of Scandinavian paper products as possible and keeping them off the American market.

DIARY OF THE CRISIS.

Jan. 3rd. Japanese enter Chinchow.

Jan. 4th. U.S. Democrats introduce Bill requesting, *inter alia*, international conference on tariff policy.

Jan. 6th. Foreign Ministers of Denmark, Norway and Sweden meet to discuss Scandinavian currency and fiscal policy.

Sterling weak: $3·35½.

Jan. 7th. Dr. Brüning and Herr Hitler discuss possible prolongation of President von Hindenburg's term of office.

U.S. Government dispatch Notes to China and Japan refusing to recognise any agreement between these countries impairing American treaty rights in China.

Jan. 8th. British and French Treasury officials resume reparations discussions in Paris.

Bulgarian Prime Minister states that Bulgaria will be unable to meet her external obligations without foreign assistance.

Sterling rallies: $3·40½.

Jan. 9th. Dr. Brüning states: "Germany's situation renders it impossible for her to continue political payments."

British Government request Japanese Ambassador to obtain confirmation of previous assurances that Japan adheres to "open-door" policy in Manchuria.

Austrian National Bank states that foreign exchange for repayment of short-term credit instalments due after January 10th will not be available. Foreign creditors invited to Vienna to discuss new terms.

Jan. 11th. B.I.S. Board agree to renewal for three months of credits to Germany, Austria, Hungary and Jugoslavia, granted other central banks extend their shares.

Bulgarian Prime Minister announces intention of asking League Council for financial assistance.

Jan. 12th. French Cabinet resigns.

Franco-British reparation conversations adjourned.

M. Moret intimates that Bank of France is willing to extend for one month only its share of the Reichsbank credit.

Herren Hitler and Hugenberg reject German Government's plan for prolonging the President's term of office.

Czech Bank Rate raised from 11 to 12 per cent.

Jan. 13th. French Cabinet reconstructed under M. Laval.

Norwegian Government increase Customs duties by 10 per cent. (sugar and coffee 15 per cent.), except goods covered by treaties and those not produced in Norway.

Chinese Government assure United States that they are ready to co-operate in upholding Nine-Power Treaty.

Belgian Bank Rate raised from 2½ to 3½ per cent.

Jan. 14th. Composition of League Commission of Inquiry in Manchuria announced: Lord Lytton chairman.

Italian Bank Rate reduced from 6 to 7 per cent.

Sterling stronger: $3·46½.

Jan. 15th. Japanese Note to United States on Manchuria states that Japan has no territorial aims in Manchuria.

Clearing negotiations between United States and Hungarian banks discontinued owing to inability of latter to provide payment currency and to increase Customs duties on goods from countries with which Germany has no commercial treaty or from which she does not receive most-favoured-nation treatment.

Five Japanese monks attacked and injured by Chinese in Shanghai.

Gen. Dawes appointed president of American Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Hungarian Bank Rate reduced from 8 to 7 per cent.

Jan. 20th. Postponement of Lausanne Conference announced. Rioting between Chinese and Japanese in Shanghai.

Jan. 21st. Japanese warships sent to Shanghai. Chinese authorities asked by Admiral Shiozawa for apology and compensation in connection with recent riots, and for dissolution of all anti-Japanese organisations.

Jan. 22nd. Announced that British Cabinet "agrees to differ" on fiscal policy.

Reconstruction Finance Corporation Bill passed by U.S. Congress.

Jan. 23rd. Report of Bankers' Standstill Committee (Germany) published.

Jan. 26th. Bank of England announces that on February 1st its outstanding credits from the New York Federal Reserve Bank and the Bank of France will be repaid in full.

London Stock Exchange restriction on "contangoes" removed.

Jan. 27th. Japanese Consul at Shanghai intimates that 6 p.m. on January 28th is the time-limit allowed to Chinese authorities for compliance with Japanese demands.

Austrian Government resigns.

Jan. 28th. Mayor of Shanghai intimates compliance with Japanese demands. Japanese Admiral announces intention of landing forces to protect Japanese nationals. Marines endeavour to occupy Chapei, but meet with considerable resistance; Woosung forts bombarded by Japanese warships.

Bank of France agrees to renew for one month further its share of Reichsbank credit on condition that the German Government will not oppose transference of gold in event of repayment.

Estonian Bank Rate reduced from 6½ to 5 per cent.

Jan. 29th. Japanese aircraft bomb Chapei; China appeals to League under Articles X. and XV. of Covenant.

Austrian Government reconstructed under Dr. Buresch.

New South Wales Government announce inability to meet forthcoming interest payments in London and New York.

Jan. 30th. Chinese reinforcements reach Shanghai; fighting continues. League Council instructs representatives of States Members in Shanghai to report on crisis.

Feb. 1st. British, French and United States reinforcements sent to Shanghai. British and American Ambassadors protest to Tokyo Government at violation of neutrality of International Settlement. Japanese warships shell Nanking.

Feb. 2nd. Japanese offensive in Chapei resumed.

British Parliament reassembles. Chancellor of Exchequer announces that British Government is in favour of cancellation of reparations and war debts.

Disarmament Conference opens at Geneva.

Feb. 3rd. Japanese warships and aircraft bombard Woosung forts; further attack on Chapei.

Reichsbank accepts French terms for credit renewal.

Feb. 4th. British Government's tariff proposals announced.

Renewed Japanese attacks on Chapei meet with strong resistance; Japanese army division ordered to Shanghai.

Feb. 5th. French put before Geneva Conference scheme for League control of certain armaments.

Feb. 6th. Austrian Government agree to appointment of M. Van Hengel as managing director of Credit-Anstalt.

Feb. 7th. Japanese troops landed at Woosung.

Feb. 8th. Sir John Simon places British proposals for reduction of armaments before Disarmament Conference.

Feb. 9th. United States disarmament proposals placed before Geneva Conference.

Japanese Finance Minister murdered in Tokyo.

Australian Government decide to meet New South Wales external obligations due on February 1st.

Feb. 10th. Import Duties Bill introduced in British Parliament.

Italy proposes to Disarmament Conference abolition of capital ships, submarines, bombing aircraft and chemical warfare.

Feb. 12th. China requests Special Session of League Assembly.

Finnish Bank Rate reduced from 8 to 7 per cent.

Feb. 13th. Agreement reached by Six Powers concerned to hold Lausanne Conference in June, with the object of agreeing on "a lasting settlement" and on the solution of "the other economic and financial difficulties" responsible for the crisis.

Feb. 15th. Powers concerned again protest against use of International Settlement at Shanghai as a Japanese base of operations.

President von Hindenburg announces that he will stand for re-election in the German Presidential election.

Feb. 16th. Committee of Twelve of League Council address Note of remonstrance to Japan.

French Government defeated; Cabinet resigns.

Austrian Chancellor invites Ministers of Great Britain, Germany, France and Italy to discuss with him Austria's financial situation.

Irish Free State General Election polling day.

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	1930. Tons.	1931. Tons.
United Kingdom	134,639	104,027
Cuba	9,733	5,196
Jamaica	1,111	1,083
Argentina	82,285	44,295
Other Latin America	7,795	12,038
South Africa	15,964	14,744
Australia	45,096	29,502
New Zealand	21,670	14,673
All other	6,707	29,265
Overseas	325,000	254,823
To United States	2,006,011	1,753,414
Total	2,331,011	2,008,237

During 1931, according to the Newsprint Service Bureau, the operating ratio of the Canadian mills ranged between 50 and 60 per cent. of their capacity; by December it had shrunk to 51.3 per cent. The Newsprint Bureau has now announced the cessation of its monthly reports on operating ratios, and in explaining this decision points out that

"not only are there no more machines building but it is also obvious that some machines cannot be profitably operated at present price levels. In other words, the capacity of the industry for practical purposes cannot be determined by compiling the possible speeds and trims of all existing machines—whether they are running or not—but is definitely limited by a multitude of economic factors."

It is well known to people acquainted with the industry that many machines in Canadian newsprint plants are obsolete, or the plants loaded with capital charges prohibitive of their profitable operation at the present price of newsprint; and the Bureau's statement is a frank admission that the rated capacity of 12,376 tons per diem does not coincide with the capacity which can at present be profitably employed. It is known, moreover, that certain of the larger mills, which are more happily situated in regard to pulpwood supplies, transportation facilities and other factors, have been operating far above the average ratio, while the remainder have had an operating ratio of well under 40, which is obviously hopeless from the viewpoint of dividends. But even the largest and strongest companies are sailing in troubled waters. The report of the Abitibi Power and Paper Company, Limited, for 1931 reveals that earnings for the year were $5,397,152, as compared with $7,374,338 in 1930, and that after bond interest and other obligations had been met, there was left for the other securities a margin of $1,301,973. A reduction of stocks, effected by using accumulated woodpiles and refraining from buying fresh supplies, has enabled a bank loan of $4¼ millions to be reduced to $2,150,000, but the directors do not feel justified in resuming dividend payments on the preferred stocks, which were suspended some time ago. The stock market's appraisal of the value of the company's common stock, which has been without a dividend for a considerable period, can be gauged by the fact that it is selling at between 2 and 3 as compared with a peak of above 80 in 1927.

In the last quarter of 1931 the Canadian newsprint companies were deriving considerable profits from the premium on the American dollar which existed in Canada, but this advantage was only temporary, as the general upheaval in the exchanges put the newsprint manufacturers of Northern Europe in a position to reinforce the strenuous efforts which they had previously been making to secure a larger share of the American newsprint market. The result has been that, whereas the United States' imports of newsprint for the first eleven months of 1931 showed a general decline of about 9 per cent., combined imports from Finland, Sweden, Norway and Germany actually showed an increase during this period of 16.9 per cent., and the gain largely occurred in the latter part of the year. It is true that the Canadian mills still only suffer from European competition in the eastern territory on the Atlantic and Pacific seaboards and the Gulf of Mexico, and that the more favourable location of the Canadian mills will preserve their market in inland cities like Chicago and St. Louis; but the newsprint consumption of the great cities situated on the seaboard is so large that European competition has to be reckoned with as a serious factor. Recent despatches from the Pacific coast indicate that the Scandinavian mills were offering newsprint at Los Angeles and San Francisco at prices substantially under those sought by the Canadian companies. Accordingly, over a large part of the United States the Canadian mills have been compelled to meet the prices of their European competitors and have thereby had to yield practically all the benefit derived from the premium upon the American dollar. There is to-day a certain mystery about the prevailing price of newsprint, but as a result of the latest cut, which was made towards the close of 1931, the average price now being received by Canadian mills does not exceed $50 net per ton.

Negotiations for a gigantic merger of as many as possible of the newsprint companies of Canada have been proceeding intermittently for many months, but so far have not come to any practical fruition. Most of the leaders of the industry are convinced that such a merger, which would make possible great administrative economies and might also offer an instrument for a certain measure of price control, is the only real solution of the industry's troubles; but the fundamental difficulty is that the directors of practically every newsprint corporation have a higher estimate of the value of their properties than others are willing to concede. It is an open secret in Montreal that not long ago one of the most influential personages in the Canadian business world convened a meeting of the leaders of the newsprint industry, and, confronting them with a committee of eminent bankers, informed them that as the situation of the industry was desperate and they had failed to reach any agreement among themselves, they must, if they wanted to avert a complete *débâcle*, consent to accept this committee of experienced bankers as arbiters about the value of their respective properties and the securities covering them. Most of the newsprint men who were present acquiesced in the proposal, some with obvious reluctance, but the representatives of two important units of the industry firmly declined to participate in any merger. Great pressure was brought to bear upon the dissentients, but they were not to be cajoled into any merger, and, as their inclusion was almost essential to its success, the architects of the project have for the time being suspended their efforts. Their present fear is that certain mills, which are in a receivership or about to suffer this fate, will be picked up on the bargain counter by American interests, who will wipe out all the junior securities and so be able to produce newsprint at an even lower price than now prevails. It is known that a group of American papers have been negotiating for the acquisition of a large newsprint plant in Ontario which has reached the end of its financial tether and has been shut down.

One interesting recent development in the newsprint situation has been the visible lukewarmness of the Canadian newsprint companies towards the campaign which Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook were waging for the application of the British 10 per cent. tariff to foreign newsprint with preferential free entry for Dominion newsprint. Not only did the leaders of the newsprint industry in Canada see no advantage in such a tariff preference for themselves, but they visualised possible disadvantages. They have never been able to do much business in the open newsprint market in Britain owing to the lower production costs and closer proximity of their Scandinavian competitors; and, in the present state of the international monetary exchanges, their competitive position in the British market has become worse. A 10 per cent. preference would be quite inadequate to overcome the heavy differential now existing between the

Canadian and Scandinavian currencies in relation to sterling; and, if the Scandinavian newsprint now sold normally in Britain lost this market it would in all probability be shipped to the United States, which it can enter without any duty. The result would be a further demoralisation of the newsprint market of the U.S.A., and as the Canadian newsprint interests regard its recovery as their paramount need, they do not want to encourage any developments which might retard this.

Nor is there any demand among the Canadian producers of wood pulp for preferential tariff treatment in Britain, because they know the costs of producing and transporting Scandinavian pulp are so much lower than their own that only a duty intolerable to British paper-makers could give them a share of the British market. Again, when a 50 per cent. dumping duty was imposed by the British Government on wrapping paper last autumn it was predicted in some quarters that Canada would benefit greatly, but so far there has been no noticeable increment of business to Canadian mills from this move. What the leaders of the pulp and paper industry in Canada realise, with a clarity denied to their would-be allies in Britain, is that their true interest lies in Britain's absorbing as large a volume of Scandinavian paper products as possible and keeping them off the American market.

DIARY OF THE CRISIS.

Jan. 3rd. Japanese enter Chinchow.

Jan. 4th. U.S. Democrats introduce Bill requesting, *inter alia*, international conference on tariff policy.

Jan. 6th. Foreign Ministers of Denmark, Norway and Sweden meet to discuss Scandinavian currency and fiscal policy.

Sterling weak: $3·35½.

Jan. 7th. Dr. Brüning and Herr Hitler discuss possible prolongation of President von Hindenburg's term of office.

U.S. Government dispatch Notes to China and Japan refusing to acquire any agreement between these countries impairing American treaty rights in China.

Jan. 8th. British and French Treasury officials resume reparations discussions in Paris.

Bulgarian Prime Minister states that Bulgaria will be unable to meet her external obligations without foreign assistance.

Sterling rallies: $3·40½.

Jan. 9th. Dr. Brüning states: "Germany's situation renders it impossible for her to continue political payments."

British Government request Japanese Ambassador to obtain confirmation of previous assurances that Japan adheres to "open-door" policy in Manchuria.

Austrian National Bank states that foreign exchange for repayment of short-term credit instalments due after January 10th will not be available. Foreign creditors invited to Vienna to discuss new terms.

Jan. 11th. B.I.S. Board agree to renewal for three months of credits to Germany, Austria, Hungary and Jugoslavia, provided other central banks extend their shares.

Belgian Prime Minister announces intention of asking League Council for financial assistance.

Jan. 12th. French Cabinet resigns.

Franco-British reparation conversations adjourned.

M. Monet intimates that Bank of France is willing to extend for one month only its share of the Reichsbank credit.

Herren Hitler and Hugenberg reject German Government's plan for prolonging the President's term of office.

Czech Bank Rate raised from 11 to 12 per cent.

Jan. 13th. French Cabinet reconstructed under M. Laval.

Norwegian Government increase Customs duties by 5 per cent. (sugar and coffee 15 per cent.), except goods covered by treaties and those not produced in Norway.

Chinese Government assure United States that they are ready to co-operate in upholding Nine-Power Treaty.

Belgian Bank Rate raised from 2½ to 3½ per cent.

Jan. 14th. Composition of League Commission of Inquiry in Manchuria announced: Lord Lytton chairman.

Indian Bank Rate reduced from 3 to 2 per cent.

Sterling stronger: $3·43½.

Jan. 15th. Japanese Note to United States on Manchuria states that Japan has no territorial aims in Manchuria.

Satisfactory negotiations between United States and Hungarian Government owing to inability of latter to provide payment of instalment.

Jan. 16th. British Chancellor reassembles. M. Laval states that France will not sacrifice any reparations due to her pending negotiations on cancellation of her own war debts.

Senate Finance Committee empowering Government to impose compensating duties on imports from countries with depreciated currency and to increase Customs duties on goods from countries with which Germany has no commercial treaty or from which she does not receive most-favoured-nation treatment.

Five Japanese monks attacked and injured by Chinese in Shanghai.

Gen. Dawes appointed president of American Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Hungarian Bank Rate reduced from 8 to 7 per cent.

Jan. 20th. Postponement of Lausanne Conference announced. Rioting between Chinese and Japanese in Shanghai.

Jan. 21st. Japanese warships sent to Shanghai. Chinese authorities asked by Admiral Shiosawa for apology and compensation in connection with recent riots, and for dissolution of all anti-Japanese organisations.

Jan. 22nd. Announced that British Cabinet "agrees to differ" on fiscal policy.

Reconstruction Finance Corporation Bill passed by U.S. Congress.

Jan. 23rd. Report of Bankers' Standstill Committee (Germany) published.

Jan. 26th. Bank of England announces that on February 1st its outstanding credits from the New York Federal Reserve Bank and the Bank of France will be repaid in full.

London Stock Exchange restriction on "contangoes" removed.

Jan. 27th. Japanese Consul at Shanghai intimates that 6 p.m. on January 28th is the time-limit allowed to Chinese authorities for compliance with Japanese demands.

Austrian Government resigns.

Jan. 28th. Mayor of Shanghai intimates compliance with Japanese demands. Japanese Admiral announces intention of landing forces to protect Japanese nationals. Marines endeavour to occupy Chapei, but meet with considerable resistance; Woosung forts bombarded by Japanese warships.

Bank of France agrees to renew for one month further its share of Reichsbank credit on condition that the German Government will not oppose transference of gold in event of repayment.

Estonian Bank Rate reduced from 6½ to 5 per cent.

Jan. 29th. Japanese aircraft bomb Chapei; China appeals to League under Articles X. and XV. of Covenant.

Austrian Government reconstructed under Dr. Buresch.

New South Wales Government announce inability to meet forthcoming interest payments in London and New York.

Jan. 30th. Chinese reinforcements reach Shanghai; fighting continues. League Council instructs representatives of States Members in Shanghai to report on crisis.

Feb. 1st. British, French and United States reinforcements sent to Shanghai. British and American Ambassadors protest to Tokyo Government at violation of neutrality of International Settlement. Japanese warships shell Nanking.

Feb. 2nd. Japanese offensive in Chapei resumed.

British Parliament reassembles. Chancellor of Exchequer announces that British Government is in favour of cancellation of reparations and war debts.

Disarmament Conference opens at Geneva.

Feb. 3rd. Japanese warships and aircraft bombard Woosung forts; further attack on Chapei.

Reichsbank accepts French terms for credit renewal.

Feb. 4th. British Government's tariff proposals announced.

Renewed Japanese attacks on Chapei meet with strong resistance; Japanese army division ordered to Shanghai.

Feb. 5th. French put before Geneva Conference scheme for League control of certain armaments.

Feb. 6th. Austrian Government agree to appointment of M. Van Hengel as managing director of Credit-Anstalt.

Feb. 7th. Japanese troops landed at Woosung.

Feb. 8th. Sir John Simon places British proposals for reduction of armaments before Disarmament Conference.

Feb. 9th. United States disarmament proposals placed before Geneva Conference.

Japanese Finance Minister murdered in Tokyo.

Australian Government decide to meet New South Wales external obligations due on February 1st.

Feb. 10th. Import Duties Bill introduced in British Parliament.

Italy proposes to Disarmament Conference abolition of capital ships, submarines, bombing aircraft and chemical warfare.

Feb. 12th. China requests Special Session of League Assembly.

Finnish Bank Rate reduced from 8 to 7 per cent.

Feb. 13th. Agreement reached by Six Powers concerned to hold Lausanne Conference in June, with the object of agreeing on "a lasting settlement" and on the solution of "the other economic and financial difficulties" responsible for the crisis.

Feb. 15th. Powers concerned again protest against use of International Settlement at Shanghai as a Japanese base of operations.

President von Hindenburg announces that he will stand for re-election in the German Presidential election.

Feb. 16th. Committee of Twelve of League Council address Note of remonstrance to Japan.

French Government defeated; Cabinet resigns.

Austrian Chancellor invites Ministers of Great Britain, Germany, France and Italy to discuss with him Austria's financial situation.

Irish Free State General Election polling day.

Feb. 17th. Foreign representatives arrange meeting between Japanese and Chinese Commanders for February 18th.

Feb. 18th. British Bank Rate reduced from 6 to 5 per cent.
Sino-Japanese truce conference breaks down. Japanese deliver ultimatum demanding, *inter alia*, the cessation of hostilities by Chinese 19th Army, the evacuation of first-line position by 7 a.m., and withdrawal to 12½ miles from International Settlement by sundown on February 20th. Chinese reject terms.
Independance of Manchuria proclaimed.
Swedish Bank Rate reduced from 6 to 5½ per cent.

Feb. 19th. League Council appeal to Japan to delay giving effect to ultimatum, and call meeting of Assembly for March 3rd.
Mr Henry P'u chosen as head of new State of Manchuria.

Feb. 20th. Japanese offensive reopened on front extending from Woosung to Hongkew.
Irish Free State election returns reveal Government defeat.
Greek Bank Rate reduced from 12 to 11 per cent.

Feb. 21st. M. Tardieu forms new French Cabinet.

Feb. 22nd. German banking reorganisation scheme announced, with State participation, involving the merging of the Darmstadter und Nationalbank in the Dresdner Bank, and the drastic writing down of capital of the Deutsche und Disconto, the Commerz and other banks.

Feb. 23rd. Shanghai: Japanese advance checked.
Reichstag reassembles.

Feb. 24th. Mr Stimson states that the United States will agree to no alteration of the Nine-Power Treaty.

Feb. 25th. Japanese attacks renewed.
Herr Hitler appointed an official of the State of Brunswick, thereby obtaining German nationality.
New York Bank Rate reduced from 3½ to 3 per cent.
Indian Bank Rate reduced from 7 to 6 per cent.

Feb. 26th. Severe fighting north of Shanghai. Japanese bomb Chinese aerodromes at Hangchow.
German Reichstag rejects by 289 votes to 264 motions of non-confidence in the Brüning Cabinet.
Glass-Steagall Banking Bill, providing for an expansion of credit, finally passed by both Houses of Congress.

Feb. 27th. Herr Hitler formally announces his candidature for German Presidency.
Japanese occupy Kiangwan.

Feb. 28th. Japanese reinforcements landed in the International Settlement and at Woosung.
In order to press political claims, Finnish Lapuan leaders mobilise forces and threaten to march on Helsingfors.

Feb. 29th. British Import Duties Bill receives Royal Assent; duties operative forthwith.

Japanese forces advance at Kiangwan. Japanese and Chinese military representatives meet on board H.M.S. "Kent." Truce proposals discussed and submitted to respective Governments. Emergency meeting of League Council considers and approves plan for joint conference between Japan, China and the other Powers for final settlement of dispute. Scheme accepted by China and referred to Japanese Government.

Mar. 1st. Japanese break Chinese lines and advance towards Tazang. Japanese 11th Division disembarked in the Yangtze 20 miles above Woosung.
Finnish Government orders arrest of Lapuan leaders; revolt collapses; two pro-Lapuan Cabinet Ministers resign.
Lithuanian Bank Rate reduced from 8½ to 7½ per cent.

Mar. 2nd. British Chancellor of Exchequer announces partial repayment Treasury's Franco-American credits. Restrictions withdrawn on the purchase by British nationals of foreign exchange. Dollar 3·48.
Owing to landing of Japanese division threatening their left rear, Chinese troops withdraw 20 kilometres from Shanghai area.
Swedish and Norwegian Bank Rates reduced from 5½ to 5 per cent. respectively.

Mar. 3rd. League Assembly meets.
Reichsbank announces immediate repayment of 10 per cent. of B.I.S. and Central Bank rediscount credit and the renewal of the remainder for 3 months to June 4th.
Roumanian Bank Rate reduced from 8 to 7 per cent.

Mar. 4th. League Assembly passes resolution calling upon the Governments of China and Japan to take immediate steps to ensure that orders for cessation of hostilities in Shanghai be made effective; and requests the "Shanghai" Powers to inform it whether such measures have been carried out.
Handelsbank Aktiengesellschaft of Berlin suspends payment.
Sterling improves: Dollar 3.50½.

Mar. 5th. Memorandum containing suggestions by the French Government for economic and financial reconstruction in the Danubian States communicated to British, Italian and German Governments.

Mar. 7th. Death of M. Briand.

Mar. 8th. Details published of new German tariff, imposing heavily increased duties on certain imports from countries with which Germany has no trade treaties or which discriminate against German goods.
Reichsbank Rate reduced from 7 to 6 per cent.
Hungarian Finance Minister announces that the British standstill agreement has been extended until August 1st.
Rapid rise in sterling: Dollar 3.71½.

Mar. 9th. Composition of new Irish Cabinet announced.
Japanese peace terms transmitted to Chinese representatives by British Minister at Shanghai.
German Debtors Committee request Foreign Creditors Committee to lower rates of interest and commission on standstill credits.

Mar. 10th. British Bank Rate reduced from 5 to 4 per cent.
China agrees to open negotiations with Japan for definite cessation of hostilities provided that there is a complete and unconditional withdrawal of Japanese forces.
Danish Bank Rate reduced from 6 to 5 per cent.
Sterling reacts. Dollar 3.66.

Mar. 11th. League Assembly adopts resolution for Shanghai peace settlement; neutral zone to be established. Action approved by United States Government.
Japanese Bank Rate reduced from 6·57 to 5·84 per cent.

Mar. 12th. Suicide in Paris of Mr Kreuger.

Mar. 13th. German presidential election polling day. President von Hindenburg fails by only 168,483 votes to obtain absolute majority.

Mar. 14th. Swedish Stock Exchange closed for one week.
Government approves moratorium for certain foreign interests during investigation of the combine's financial position.

Mar. 15th. Chinese Government accept League Assembly resolution of Mar. 11th.
Irish Parliament meets. Mr De Valera states that the Government intend to remove Oath of Allegiance from the Constitution.
French Budget modifies imports tax imposed in 1926 from the rate of 2 per cent. *ad valorem* to 6 per cent. on finished articles, 4 per cent. on semi-finished products, and 2 per cent. on raw materials.

Mar. 16th. Mr de Valera states that no further land annuities will be paid by Irish Free State to Great Britain.
German Government replies to M. Tardieu's Danubian memorandum, suggesting that the consultations should include France, Germany, Great Britain and Italy, as well as the Danubian States.
Governor of Bulgarian National Bank reports that Financial Committee of the League and the Bondholders Committee, now sitting in Paris, will make certain concessions to Bulgaria if she meets the payments due on March 15th. Government decide to pay.

Mar. 17th. Disarmament Conference adjourns until April 11th.
British Bank Rate reduced from 4 to 3½ per cent.
Austrian Bank Rate reduced from 8 to 7 per cent.

Mar. 21st. International Chamber of Commerce invites chairmen of its national committees in Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Jugoslavia, Poland and Rumania to attend a conference on April 10th to discuss the situation of the Danubian States.
Italian Bank Rate reduced from 7 to 6 per cent.

Mar. 23rd. South African Budget imposes additional import duty of 7½ per cent. on nearly all imports.
Mr Thomas states British Government's objections to Irish Free State's Oath policy.

Mar. 24th. United States House of Representatives reject Sales Tax proposals for balancing the Budget.
Irish Free State impose 33⅓ per cent. tariff on all imports of foreign agricultural machinery, with a 25 per cent. duty on British imports.
Sterling strong: Dollar 3.71¼.

Mar. 26th. Heavy sales of dollars: rate on London 3·71⅝.

Mar. 27th. Announced that British Government has invited France, Germany and Italy to attend a conference in London early in April to discuss the Danubian Plan.

Mar. 28th. Continued heavy selling of dollars in New York.
Sterling: Dollar 3.82⅛.

Mar. 29th. Announced that British Treasury is repaying bills with outstanding balance of New York credit.
Announced that M. Tardieu and M. Flandin will visit Mr MacDonald in London on April 4th.
League Financial Committee accept suspension for one year of sinking fund payments on Greek foreign obligations.
Fresh tax proposals, estimated to yield $160 millions, approved by United States House of Representatives. Dollar steadier.
Sterling: Dollar 3.77⅛.

Mar. 30th. United States House of Representatives approve further taxes, estimated to yield $170 millions.
Sterling: Dollar 3.76.

Notes of the Week.

The Four-Power Conference.—In the European sector of the world crisis two developments of importance fall to be recorded: M. Tardieu, a welcome guest, visits London this Sunday to discuss the situation informally with Mr MacDonald, and invitations have been issued to France, Germany and Italy by the British Government to join in a Four-Power Conference on the position of the Danubian States. The hope is that this Conference—the invitations have already been accepted by Germany and Italy, and French acceptance will probably be notified

before these lines are read—can be held next week, though Mr. Hoover's preoccupation with the Presidential election in Germany may make his personal attendance impossible. Regrettably, a section of the Paris Press has seen fit to depict the British Government's initiative in proposing this Conference as a manœuvre of Mr MacDonald's calculated to checkmate the supposedly pending arrangement concluded between M. Tardieu and Sir John Simon, whereby a joint understanding, first fruits of a renewed *entente cordiale*, between Britain and France was to pave the way for successful negotiations between the countries of South-Eastern Europe. To place this construction on the invitations to the Four-Power Conference—whatever the Foreign Secretary may have said to M. Tardieu—is both to misconceive and to do scant justice to British policy. Welcome as is M. Tardieu's visit, opinion in this country is overwhelmingly opposed, we will not say to hitching the British wagon to French policy, either in the matter of reparations or as regards the "system of Europe," but opposed rather to any particular understandings exclusive of other countries. Moreover, so far as the Danubian crisis is concerned, it is patent that no useful steps preparatory to a "South-Eastern Conference" could be taken without the co-operation of Germany and Italy. So far from being inspired by any "manœuvring" motive, the British Government's attitude in proposing a meeting of the Four Powers appears to us to be plainly to the general interest of Europe. What will come of the Conference is another matter. Apart from the obvious, if questionably sound, plan of once more "putting their hands in their pockets" in order to alleviate for a moment the menacing financial strain that extends from Vienna to the Black Sea and the Ægean, the Western Powers will have to consider if any form of trade agreement can be devised which will help those distressed countries without asking for greater privileges than the Powers are ready to concede. Preferential tariff arrangements are very much in the air; but, apart from the difficulty of securing agreement on plans that give special opportunities to A. and not to B., we must be careful lest, under the guise of helping the needy, we may be devising yet another method of tying up trade in leading strings. We are far from wishing to discourage any attempt at economic federation between the Danubian States, but it is well to realise that recovery is not to be achieved by crying, "Reconstruct" and waving a political wand.

The League and Central Europe.—On the deliberations of Mr MacDonald and M. Tardieu next week-end, and on those of the projected subsequent Four-Power Conference, the conclusions of the Financial Committee of the League on the present difficulties of Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Greece will obviously have an important bearing. The Committee is understood to have completed its work before Easter but, under normal procedure, its reports are submitted before publication to the League Council. The next ordinary meeting of the Council will not take place until May 9th, and, though a special meeting is to be called early in April, it is understood that this is summoned purely for dealing with Far Eastern affairs. If it is really true that five or six precious weeks are to be allowed to elapse before the Committee's urgent proposals to meet a very urgent problem are considered by the Council, the situation is most unfortunate, and we hope that the necessity of earlier consideration by the Council may yet be recognised. No official *communiqué* was issued by the Committee at the close of its proceedings but, according to the news from Athens, Greece appears to have been informed by the Committee that it is prepared to accede to the Greek Government's request for temporary relief by the postponement of permitting the suspension for one year of certain [illegible] payments on account of foreign [illegible] including the League loans of 1924 and [illegible] recommended that the sums thus [illegible] be temporarily lent for productive [illegible] Greek Government. Although [illegible] transfer, position of Greece [illegible] Committee had obviously to be [illegible] consideration of the other three countries whose present straits were surveyed by the Committee is clearly such as to suggest that if the above-mentioned concessions have had to be granted to the Greek Government, temporary relief of one kind or another may well have had to be recommended in the other cases also. The *Economist* found occasion last autumn to criticise earlier findings of the Financial Committee, *e.g.*, in the case of Hungary, on the ground that the Committee failed (it may be from lack of unanimity among its members) to face squarely the crucial fact that, given the existing political structure of South-Eastern Europe, the fiscal policy of the Western Creditor Powers and, above all, the present price of primary agricultural products, the Central European States, including Austria, Bulgaria and Greece, form an area whose collective insolvency cannot be cured by individual policies of monetary deflation, budgetary economies and import restrictions. The Committee is entitled to plead that it could not foresee last autumn that the Reparations Conference would be postponed until June, 1932—a postponement which has necessarily aggravated the difficulties of the whole of Central and South-Eastern Europe. It might, however, have done much good had the Committee laid more urgent emphasis six months ago on the necessity of dealing radically with the problems of prices and trade outlets if disaster was to be avoided. How far the Committee has now been constrained to face unpalatable facts remains to be seen. But if, as seems inevitable, and as is in fact to be deduced from the disclosures already made in the case of Greece, the Committee has had to face the virtual failure of the League's attempts to restore by financial aid the post-war system of South-Eastern Europe, that very fact is a cogent reason why the Great Powers—who may indeed have to face the question whether further urgent financial aid is not imperative to avoid an economic collapse in that area—should do all in their power at the forthcoming Conference to contribute to the foundation of a basis for Central European reconstruction. Under the circumstances, we would strongly urge that the report of the Financial Committee should be made known to the public with the least possible delay, without waiting for the next meeting of the League Council.

The Indian Princes and Federation.—The Eleventh Annual Session of the Chamber of Princes was opened this Monday, March 27th, by the Viceroy; and on this occasion the rulers of the Indian States have reaffirmed their intention—originally expressed some two years ago—of entering into an All-India Federation with the British Indian provinces. The substantive passage in this week's resolution runs: "This Chamber declares that the Indian States will join an All-India Federation on the assumption that the Crown will accept the responsibility of guaranteeing to them the necessary safeguards." The resolution then goes on to lay down the conditions that the safeguards shall be embodied in the new All-India Federal Constitution as an integral part of it; that all existing treaties, *sanads* and other obligations regulating the relation between the States and the Crown shall remain inviolate and inviolable; and that the rights of internal sovereignty shall remain untouched. In one sense the new resolution goes further than its predecessor, inasmuch as it is expressed as a "declaration" instead of a mere statement of opinion in regard to the probable action which the States might be expected to take individually. The States have now definitely pledged themselves to federation as a body. At the same time, the conditions and guarantees, as re-stated, are uncompromising and comprehensive. If the States were really to stand on the letter of these conditions in perpetuity, the All-India Federation of the future might find its life and growth and movement seriously cramped; but perhaps this is not a very formidable practical danger. The great thing is that the Princes should have made up their minds definitely to enter the Federation. The histories of other federations show that, at the moment of taking the decision to merge their separate existences in a larger whole, the federating States are apt to insist upon their State rights very jealously; but that in process of time the logic of facts impels them to modify and even waive these

jealously preserved rights of their own volition. For a Federal Union, once successfully established, becomes a living thing in itself, which changes and grows and carries its parts and organs along in the movement of its own life. Thus, on a long view, the Indian Princes' resolution, taken as a whole, is not unsatisfactory, while, on a short view, it is highly opportune as a fresh practical step towards the goal of Indian self-government. It is particularly important, of course, that as many such steps as possible should be taken at a time when the Government of India is having, unfortunately, to pursue a dual policy of simultaneous constitutional advance and administrative repression.

The League, Japan and Manchuria.—The Lytton Commission has now sent an interim report to Geneva, which records its movements up to date and its future programme. Having first visited Japan (which was, perhaps, a diplomatic error), and then Shanghai and Nanking, the Commission is proposing to travel on to Manchuria via Peking, arriving in Manchuria at the beginning of the third week in April. It is at that point, of course, that the Commission's "tough job" will really begin. Pending the Commission's arrival, the Japanese are going ahead as fast as they can with their systematic endeavours to sever the links between Manchuria and the rest of China, and to gather up the whole of the Manchurian administration and Manchurian revenues into their own hands under guise of supporting their puppet Government of Manchukao. The Japanese advisers of Mr Henry P'u are reported to have given written instructions to the managers of the Customs banks at Antung and Newchang to hand over all present Customs balances and all future payments, on Customs account, that the banks receive. Similar instructions have been sent to the Commissioner of the China Salt Gabelle at Mukden. Presumably these officials will refuse these illegal demands; and presumably the Japanese puppet, backed by Japanese bayonets, will then seize their funds and papers and offices. There will be all the more material for the Lytton Commission to report upon when it arrives. In the meantime, "official circles" in Japan are airing, ostensibly for foreign consumption, the suggestion that Japan will prefer to withdraw from the League rather than assent to her dispute with China over Manchuria being dealt with under Article 15 of the Covenant. On this Japanese *ballon d'essai* there are two comments to be made. In the first place, a Japanese notification of withdrawal from League membership would make no juridical difference to the Manchurian position. Notifications of withdrawal do not legally take effect until after the lapse of two years (a provision inserted in the Covenant precisely in order to prevent Covenant-breaking States from slipping out of their obligations in this way). In the second place, the League, under the Covenant, claims the right of insisting that non-members should accept the procedure of the League in the settlement of their disputes with a State member if the State member invokes the Covenant; and the League further reserves the right to employ its sanctions against non-member States in these circumstances in case they are recalcitrant. The second point is that in losing Japan the League would not be losing a loyal and valued member, but, on the contrary, a member who, during the last few months, has persistently broken her League obligations, blocked the League procedure, and resisted and, in the last resort, defied her fellow States-members. If Japan chooses to brand herself as an outlaw by notifying intention to withdraw, that is her affair. This threat—or bluff—leaves us unmoved.

Armistice Negotiations at Shanghai.—The armistice negotiations at Shanghai still drag on; and though it always remains possible that the strenuous and unremitting efforts of the local representatives of the neutral Powers may succeed at length in bringing the belligerents to an armistice agreement, the prospect seems to become daily more remote. There seems, in fact, to be no point on which the Chinese and the Japanese are disposed to agree. The Japanese insist that the Chinese must remain in their present positions at a radius of 20 kilometres from Shanghai, while the Japanese themselves withdraw, not from Chinese soil or even from Chinese territory outside the International Settlement, but merely to the line of the Shanghai-Woosung Railway—an arrangement which would give Japan the military command over the approaches to Shanghai by water for an indefinite time to come. The Chinese, on the other hand, are not content that they themselves shall remain in their present line; and they insist that the Japanese shall withdraw at least into the Settlement. The utmost concession they envisage is that part of the Japanese force shall remain in the extra-Settlement area round Hongkew Park. Apart from this disagreement on the primary topographical issue, there is also disagreement on the conditions under which the Japanese withdrawal (to whatever line it may be) is to be made. The Chinese insist that the Japanese withdrawal must be unconditional, and indeed (in our view, quite reasonably) that compensation must be paid for the extensive damage which the Japanese have wantonly and barbarously inflicted upon Chapei. The Japanese, on the other hand, decline to withdraw until their original demands for the cessation of the anti-Japanese boycott and the protection of their nationals are satisfied, or at least until they have some guarantee that satisfaction will be secured. In these circumstances, agreement seems improbable; and we have to expect an impasse—continuing for an indefinite future—on the basis of the present *de facto* situation. A resumption of hostilities is improbable. The Chinese Nineteenth Army will hardly venture to counter-attack on the new front, now that the Japanese have dug themselves in. On the other side, the Japanese, who have already withdrawn a large part of their troops and warships from Shanghai, seem equally unlikely to resume the offensive against an enemy who has shown, and is still showing, fight, and who is admirably posted for defence in the midst of a maze of creeks and canals stretching away into an illimitable hinterland. It seems, therefore, that the contest of wills is to be decided by the method of economic exhaustion. As things are, the Chinese Government at Nanking will go on losing its revenues from Shanghai, Japan will go on losing her China trade through the boycott, and the Western community in Shanghai will go on losing its business. We prophesy that the Chinese will come out of this ordeal the least badly and the Westerners the worst.

The Language Question in Malta.—Malta seem fated to be in ferment. She is hardly out of one controversy before she finds herself on the verge of another. In fact, the new controversy over the Italian language in Malta has actually arisen out of a recommendation made in the report of the Royal Commission which was sent to Malta *à propos* of the recent local conflict between Lord Strickland's Ministry and the Catholic Church. The Royal Commission recommended, among many other things, that in the primary schools of Malta, the Italian language should cease to be taught, and that in the secondary schools it should become an optional instead of a compulsory subject. The purpose of the recommendation was to make room for English as the principal supplementary language of the Maltese people. It is taken for granted that they must at any rate be educated in their own Maltese; but Maltese is a thing in itself—a bastard child of Arabic or, by some accounts, of Punic. It is spoken nowhere in the world except in Malta itself and since there are always more Maltese living outside Malta than in it, the choice of the supplementary language to be taught in Maltese schools is a question of national importance. The traditional supplementary language is Italian; but the tradition dates from a now obsolete state of affairs in which Italian was the *lingua franca* of the Mediterranean (and as such was not only the "culture-language" of Malta but the language of command in the Austrian and the Ottoman Navy). Now that English has become the most widely current *lingua franca* in the world (the Mediterranean included), while Malta has become part of the British Empire instead of being the possession of the International Crusading Order of St. John, the case for giving the

English language the status formerly enjoyed by the Italian language is very strong; the more so considering the number of Maltese who find employment in connection with the British Navy. There are, however, certain complications. For instance, Italian has won a permanent place in the affections of the Maltese educated and governing classes, both ecclesiastical and secular. They think and write in Italian, because Maltese itself has never been fashioned into a literary language; and in this sense Italian has become the national language of a small but important and influential minority of the Maltese people. This bilingual minority quite humanly resents the deposition of the language which has become its own instrument of self-expression; it does not relish the prospect of being engulfed in the rising tide of a Maltese commonalty which will now grow up to be Anglo-Maltese and not Italo-Maltese in its speech; and accordingly this Italianate minority in Malta finds a certain attraction in playing with Italian nationalism. On this account the British Government's decision to implement the Royal Commission's recommendation on the language question has aroused some feeling and this feeling has not been eased by the utterances which are reported to have been made by Signor Giunta, the Under-Secretary of State in the Italian Prime Minister's Department, when he was passing through Malta at the end of last week *en route* from Rome to Tripoli. Both Signor Giunta himself and the Italian Government have issued suitable *démentis;* and no "incident" has been created. But the event indicates that Malta is not yet out of the wood.

The Future of the I.L.P.—The Independent Labour Party celebrated Eastertide by holding their annual conference at Blackpool; but despite the notoriously bracing air of that seaside resort it is to be doubted whether the delegates derived much satisfaction or inspiration from their visit. The proceedings, indeed, revealed a cleavage between two sections in the I.L.P. which is hardly less fundamental than that which exists between the I.L.P. and the official Labour Party. The main question before the conference was whether the I.L.P. should secede or not secede from the parent body. On this question three votes were taken, the first rather narrowly rejecting definite disaffiliation, the second decisively turning down the continuance of unconditional affiliation, and the third showing a large majority for "affiliation on terms." The main condition on which the majority were prepared to continue affiliation is that the standing orders of the Labour party should be revised so as to accord certain privileges of independence to members of the I.L.P. Apparently the I.L.P. will only continue its official connection with the party if it is allowed to live within the movement as an autonomous minority—on terms, indeed, not dissimilar to those on which the dissentient Ministers remain within the present Cabinet. But this decision of the conference would not appear to advance matters very much, since, before the conference, Mr Arthur Henderson emphatically repudiated something very similar to the conditional affiliation proposal which the I.L.P now has in mind. Indeed, Mr Maxton (who advocated out-and-out disaffiliation) warned the delegates that no one was likely to get more concessions out of Mr Henderson than he himself had obtained. So, after all, the I.L.P. is likely to be faced with the choice between playing second fiddle to the beat of Mr Henderson's baton —or going out into the wilderness. And the wilderness looks no much chillier and more lonely than it did a year ago. It is one thing to become an irresponsible "ginger-group" on the flank of a party which is in power; and quite another thing to break off from a party which has been temporarily shattered by the electorate and reduced to impotence in the House of Commons.

Cotton Trade Redundancy Scheme.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—A rather important development has occurred this week in connection with the scheme in the Lancashire cotton industry for scrapping surplus machinery and concentrating production. On Tuesday [illegible] of the General Committee of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation was held in Manchester to consider the report from the Joint Committee of Cotton Trade Organisations for the co-operation of the Federation in preparing a detailed scheme. It will be remembered that the Joint Committee last week received a letter from Mr Runciman, the President of the Board of Trade, to the effect that he would be prepared to recommend the Government to introduce legislation providing for the necessary levy if the industry could show a satisfactory measure of support for the proposals. After a full discussion the Federation General Committee decided that it was not in a position to co-operate in the formation of a scheme, but it offered no objection to the Joint Committee preparing a detailed scheme. The Federation also announced that it was willing to supply any required information to the Joint Committee and was prepared to submit such a scheme on completion to a ballot vote of the members. It was further stated that, on the understanding that no responsibility attached to the Federation, the General Committee was not averse to any of its members co-operating in their individual capacity with the Joint Committee. It has been learned unofficially that many members of the Federation Committee were in favour of no further action being taken whatever, and the resolution ultimately adopted was a compromise. Amongst spinning employers there is some resentment against the members of the Joint Committee approaching the Government with regard to the matter in view of the relatively poor support given to the proposals at the recent ballot. A meeting of the Executive of the Joint Committee was due to be held in Manchester yesterday (Friday) to consider the situation. There is a wide difference of opinion throughout the industry with regard to the proposals for dealing with surplus machinery and some doubt is expressed as to whether the Joint Committee will be successful in securing support which will be sufficient to warrant the Government in introducing legislation. It has been suggested that in order to deal with the situation it will be necessary to scrap about 10,000,000 spindles and 100,000 looms, and the levy on the machinery remaining will provide a fund for compensating those employers who decide to go out of business and hand over their machinery.

The International Sugar Convention.—The attempt to adjust the world's supply of sugar to requirements by means of an international export restriction scheme, signed on May 9th last year, has been frustrated by subsequent events. The export quotas were based on the level of consumption at the time of the inception of the scheme. Provision was made for an increase in exports under certain conditions, but the weakness of the "Chadbourne Plan" was the absence of flexibility in case of the necessity for a downward revision of the quotas. The restriction scheme has come to grief, not because the adherents to the Convention exceeded their quotas, but because of the enormous decline in consumption which had not been foreseen. The United States was unable to absorb the Cuban quota, and Java found it impossible to dispose of her quota in the Far East. The price of raw sugar (96° centrifugal) in New York declined from 1.58 cents per lb. in July, 1930, to 1.15 cents per lb. at the end of December. In order to bring about an adjustment of supplies to the reduced level of demand, negotiations were started at the end of last year, and in March an international conference was held in Paris. That meeting came to an end on March 22nd without having reached a final agreement. Meanwhile the quotation for raw sugar had reached the low level of 0.73 cents per lb. in New York. Negotiations were, however, continued on the basis of a proposal made by the European and Peruvian members of the Convention. These proposals were that Cuba should reduce her 1932 crop to 2,500,000 tons, and that, if Cuba did this, they would reduce their exports by any amount by which Java's exports exceeded 1,500,000 tons during the year from April, 1932, to April, 1933. According to an announcement made by the International Sugar Council on Wednesday last, these proposals have now been accepted. Cuba's adherence was secured on the understanding that she might grow 2,700,000 tons during 1932, which is 200,000 tons above the original figure. The Council states that the acceptance of these arrangements has overcome the difficulties in the execution of the International Sugar Agreement.

Dock Wages Dispute.—The London ocean shipowners, tired, apparently, of waiting for the Transport and General Workers and the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers to ratify an agreement which was initiated last December, have announced that as from Monday, April 11th, all piecework discharging of cargo will be paid at the rates set out in the slightly reduced tariff then agreed upon. There is time for further negotiation, but discussions aimed at a salutary reduction of the existing high piecework rates have lasted for so many years that the prospects of a fruitful outcome to negotiations of a few days' duration do not seem very bright. The shipowners' position is that the unions have openly expressed the view that the agreement which they initialled in December was fair, and that, while the postponement of its ratification during and immediately after the lightermen's strike was reasonable, its repeated subsequent postponement, followed by the announcement of the unions on March 7th that the agreement could not be accepted, leaves the employers no alternative but to enforce the agreement as it stands, subject to possible reconsideration of individual points. The unions, on the other hand, allege that the schedule was only initialled "as a correct record" and that it was always made clear that it was accepted by the union representives only subject to ratification by the members. As both sides have everything to lose by a stoppage of work, it can only be hoped that the opposing points of view may be cleared up in the course of next week.

The Means Test.—The *Manchester Guardian* called attention a fortnight ago to the remarkable disparity between the figures of different public assistance authorities showing the numbers of claims disallowed after application of the means test. Below are some of the more extreme figures quoted:—

	Cases determined.	Full rates allowed.	Partial benefit allowed.	No benefit allowed.
Great Britain	1,884,074	943,527	665,008	275,537
London City and County	99,683	54,777	19,206	25,700
Lancashire County	89,239	20,310	29,879	39,050
Yorkshire, West Riding	66,893	43,122	15,823	7,948
Glamorganshire	43,109	40,128	1,552	1,429
Staffs. administrative county	41,763	...	...	4,592

These figures, which relate in most cases to the period November 12th to January 23rd, show a very wide divergence in the proportion of claims disallowed. In Glamorganshire it was 3 per cent.; in Lancashire 44 per cent., and for Great Britain as a whole 14.6 per cent. This the *Manchester Guardian* cites as evidence of disquieting local divergence in the treatment of the unemployed. While such local divergence is a serious danger, in the stressing of which our contemporary has undoubtedly performed a valuable service, the inference of such divergence from statistics alone (the *Manchester Guardian*, it is only fair to add, adduces other and more convincing evidence) would be a *non sequitur*. The proportion of claims disallowed would, if our system of administration were uniform over the whole country, vary with the alternative sources of income available in different localities, and this, in return, varies with the age and sex composition of the working population; the extent to which the district is dependent upon a very limited number of industries; the length of time that depression has obtained in the locality; the proportion of well-to-do residents and innumerable other factors. In Lancashire, where the proportion of girls and women whose husbands and fathers may be able to contribute to their support is comparatively high, one would expect to see more claims disallowed than in the mining villages of South Wales, where few families have alternative employment. Again, in the big industrial towns there are more chances of picking up some supplementary pittance than in Welsh villages where there are few people left with money to employ odd-job men. Perfect uniformity in the principles of administration, therefore, would be reflected in a wide diversity of disallowment percentages. None the less, the Ministry of Labour has found it necessary to protest to certain Public Assistance Committees in respect of the way in which they have been administering transitional benefit, and it seems evident that the absence of any guarantee that the underlying principles of administration will be the same everywhere is giving rise to variations which, if they are not checked, will bring this very important reform into discredit. This would be a most regrettable development, and it is to be hoped that the Ministry of Labour will find means to enforce a greater degree of uniformity.

Germany's Coal Import Quotas.—Among the steadily multiplying restrictions on international commerce few are more unfortunate for British trade than the progressive reductions in the German coal import quotas. On October 1, 1931, the British quota was reduced to 900,000 tons a month. This was further reduced to 200,000 tons on February 1; curtailed by another 50,000 tons during March and will be reduced by yet another 50,000 tons on April 1st. This is a severe hardship for the British coal industry and pressure is naturally being brought to bear upon Mr Runciman to be "as firm as he is courteous" in pursuing his negotiations on the matter with the German Government. At the same time, unfortunate as Germany's action is for the British coal industry, it is less easy to see how she can be blamed. Her need for an active trade balance is even more imperative than that of other countries, and the decline of some 44 per cent. in the output of coal in the Ruhr district since 1929 suggests coal imports as an obvious subject of economy, while the reduction, since October, 1929, of 174,000 in the number of miners employed, shows what strong social pressure the Government is under to adopt this method of relief. The allegation that Germany is discriminating unfairly against British coal arises from the fact that Great Britain is the chief exporter of coal to Germany, and still more the chief net exporter, since most of the other countries which sell coal to Germany also buy it from her. Any step which is effectively to curtail German coal imports must therefore have the appearance of being especially directed against Great Britain, just as British restrictions on luxury imports inevitably have the appearance of being especially directed against France. The question of the violation of the Anglo-German Commercial Treaty of 1924 is more difficult than might appear at first sight. Germany was bound by that treaty not to impose import prohibitions or restrictions against British goods unless they apply to the imports of goods from any other country, but it may be argued that these quotas are not new restrictions but the application of a system of licences already in force at the time of the conclusion of the treaty—licences analogous to the British licences for German dyestuffs. Whether this extension of those licences in the present manner is in accordance with the spirit of the treaty is another matter, but in this connection it must be remembered that the treaty rested on "the favourable treatment at present accorded to goods the produce or manufacture of Germany on importation into the United Kingdom." It may reasonably be contended that the triumph of protectionism in Great Britain has somewhat altered the nature of Germany's moral obligation. The real point is that, if our monthly exports of coal to Germany, which in 1929 amounted to over 460,000 tons, are threatened with reduction to less than a fourth of that volume, the need becomes the more obvious for a settlement of reparations on a basis which will permit the restoration of Germany's economic life.

Worse than the Boll Weevil.—The contemplation of dwindled trade figures has led our well-known contemporary, the *Wall Street Journal*, to give new emphasis to certain fiscal home-truths. In an editorial in the issue of March 18th occur the following passages:—

> How are we to export more merchandise when our principal customers are building up higher tariff walls, creating exchange restrictions, and imposing quotas that act almost as prohibitions? If we asked that question of them they might answer it by asking another like this: "How can you expect to sell to us when you will not buy from us?" That is the situation: how can we answer it? Trade is an exchange of goods, and, not only this country, but an increasing number of other countries, are making the exchange more difficult. . . . Instead of building more barricades and limbed wire entanglements, it would be better for all nations to join in clearing away the obstructions in the road over which international trade must travel.

THE REVENUE.

I.—An Account of the TOTAL REVENUE of the UNITED KINGDOM, in the undermentioned periods of the Year ending March 31, 1932, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year.

	Quarter from January 1 to March 31, 1932, compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding Year.				Year ending March 31, 1932, compared with the preceding Year.			
	Quarter ending Mar. 31, 1932.	Quarter ending Mar. 31, 1931.	Increase.	Decrease.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1932.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1931.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ordinary Revenue.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Inland Revenue—								
Income Tax	210,895,000	176,700,000	34,195,000	...	287,367,000	256,047,000	31,320,000	...
Super-tax, including Arrears of Super-tax	55,100,000	50,020,000	5,080,000	...	76,700,000	67,830,000	8,870,000	...
Estate Duties	16,610,000	22,260,000	...	5,650,000	65,000,000	82,610,000	...	17,610,000
Stamps, &c., Duties	6,670,000	7,400,000	...	730,000	17,070,000	20,650,000	...	3,580,000
Excess Profits Duty and Corporation Profits Tax	2,500,000	3,000,000	...	500,000	2,500,000	3,000,000	...	500,000
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty	660,000	650,000	10,000	...	850,000	830,000	20,000	...
Total Inland Revenue	292,435,000	260,030,000	39,285,000	6,880,000	449,487,000	430,967,000	40,210,000	21,690,000
Customs and Excise—								
Customs	35,379,000	30,387,000	4,992,000	...	136,152,000	121,401,000	14,751,000	...
Excise	29,000,000	28,500,000	500,000	...	119,900,000	124,000,000	...	4,100,000
Total Customs and Excise	64,379,000	58,887,000	5,492,000	...	256,052,000	245,401,000	14,751,000	4,100,000
Motor Vehicles Duties (Exchequer share)	2,916,000	3,224,000	...	308,000	4,961,000	4,926,041	34,959	...
Post Office (Net receipts)	950,000	*150,000	1,100,000	...	11,500,000	10,100,000	1,400,000	...
Crown Lands	240,000	230,000	10,000	...	1,250,000	1,280,000	...	30,000
Receipts from Sundry Loans	1,291,972	6,191,907	...	4,899,935	13,809,853	32,890,401	...	19,080,548
Miscellaneous Receipts	14,119,388	12,138,814	1,980,574	...	29,913,088	34,330,533	...	4,417,445
Appropriation from Betting Relief Reserve Account	90,340	...	90,340	...	3,990,340	16,000,000	...	12,009,660
Total Ordinary Revenue	376,421,700	340,551,721	47,957,914	12,087,935	770,963,281	775,894,975	56,395,959	61,327,653
			£35,869,979 Net Increase.				£4,931,694 Net Decrease.	
Self-Balancing Revenue.								
Post Office	16,350,000	16,750,000	...	400,000	58,000,000	59,000,000	...	1,000,000
Motor Vehicles Duties apportioned to Road Fund	13,936,000	13,968,000	...	32,000	22,519,000	22,865,959	...	346,959
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	30,286,000	30,718,000	...	432,000	80,519,000	81,865,959	...	1,346,959
Total	406,707,700	371,269,721	47,957,914	12,519,935	851,482,281	857,760,934	56,395,959	62,674,612
			£35,437,979 Net Increase.				£6,278,653 Net Decrease.	

II.—An Account showing the RECEIPTS into and ISSUES out of the EXCHEQUER in the Year ending March 31, 1932, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year.

RECEIPTS.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1932.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1931.
	£	£
Ordinary Revenue, as shown in Account I.	770,963,281	775,894,975
Self-balancing Revenue, as shown in Account I.	80,519,000	81,865,959
Total Revenue	851,482,281	857,760,934
Temporary Advances Repaid—		
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	17,224	36,917
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931	...	...
Road Fund	11,414,000	4,940,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—		
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues—		
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1928 and 1931	9,700,000	11,000,000
By Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	...	362,600
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931	39,610,000	36,440,000
(c) For other Issues—		
By Treasury Bills	2,625,923,000	2,638,426,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44	...	46,774,808
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64	...	198,395
By National Savings Certificates	47,300,000	49,100,000
By 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1934–36	...	105,590,181
By British Government Loans Abroad	151,846,544	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances	882,610,000	752,325,000
Repayments—		
In respect of Suez Canal Drawn Shares	78,115	...
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	141,740	164,499
	4,630,122,904	4,503,119,334
Balances in Exchequer—	1932.	1930.
Bank of England	£ 5,334,959	£ 5,504,595
Bank of Ireland	470,181	620,619
	5,991,543	6,125,214
	£ 4,636,114,447	4,509,244,548

ISSUES.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1932.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1931.
Ordinary Expenditure.	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	289,492,214	293,169,569
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	6,346,945	6,424,670
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,051,999	2,896,276
Total	298,891,158	302,490,515
Supply Services—		
Army, Navy and Air Votes	107,280,000	110,524,000
Civil and Revenue Votes (excluding Post Office)	331,920,000	319,326,000
Total, Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	439,200,000	429,850,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	738,091,158	732,340,515
Self-Balancing Expenditure.		
Post Office	58,000,000	59,000,000
Road Fund	22,519,000	22,865,959
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,519,000	81,865,959
Total Ordinary and Self-Balancing Expenditure	818,610,158	814,206,474
New Sinking Fund (1928)	32,507,786	66,830,431
Total, including New Sinking Fund	851,117,944	881,036,905
Interest on National Savings Certificates—		
Paid in excess of the provision in the Permanent Debt Charge	8,430,922	...
Temporary Advances—		
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	17,224	36,917
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931	39,610,000	36,440,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928	11,414,000	4,940,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—		
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1928 and 1931	9,700,000	11,000,000
Under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	...	362,600
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931—		
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed	...	...
Redemption of Debt—		
Treasury Bills paid off	2,591,290,000	2,646,500,000
Principal of 4 per Cent. War Loan, 1929–42, paid off	350,100	75,060,160
Principal of National Savings Certificates—		
(a) Repaid by issues under Section 33 (1), Finance Act, 1923	47,300,000	35,900,000
(b) Repaid otherwise	1,000,000	...
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off	19,148	15,677
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	1,331,390	35,605,746
Principal of British Government Loans Abroad	150,276,637	...
Issues to National Debt Commissioners under Section 3 (3) of the War Loan Act, 1919	7,319,000	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917	74,790	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	899,610,000	776,355,000
Depreciation Fund—		
Under the Finance Act, 1917	1,370,137	...
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—		
Suez Canal Drawn Shares Repayments	78,115	...
	4,630,309,307	4,503,253,005
Balances in Exchequer—	March 31, 1932.	March 31, 1931.
	£	£
Bank of England	5,334,959	5,296,468
Bank of Ireland	470,181	695,075
	5,805,140	5,991,543
	£ 4,636,114,447	4,509,244,548

Note.—Floating Debt outstanding March 31, 1931 ..... £594,325,000

Ways and Means Advances outstanding:—	1932. March 31. £	1931. March 31. £
Advances by Bank of England	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	7,500,000	24,500,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	*604,465,000	569,825,000
Total Floating Debt outstanding	611,965,000	594,325,000
Net decrease	£17,630,000	

* Including £50,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

Four days later the same journal published an editorial under the caption "Worse than Boll Weevils." This caption was suggested by an address delivered before a conference of business men, in which it was affirmed by the speaker that, while the weevil destroys only a portion of the cotton crop, the tariff destroys the means of payment of those who would buy the crop. The *Wall Street Journal* comments:—

> Before the war, the United States was a debtor country and an import balance of goods was not considered a benefit; accordingly, public sentiment favoured a protective tariff. The economic change in the country has come more rapidly than the change in political thinking, so we are in the position of a creditor country with our minds still those of debtors. . . . We cannot increase foreign customers' means of payment by shutting out their goods; furthermore, we cannot hope for an increased demand for our goods so long as all the nations of the world are engaged in increasing their tariffs. The protective principle for debtor countries for the present seems to be lost to sight, and nations are bent on destroying international trade at a greater rate than weevils destroy cotton.

We expect that our Wall Street contemporary would agree with us that one most hopeful approach towards a way out of the present impasse would be by way of the liberal exercise of the elastic provisions of the United States tariff law.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Employers Liability Assurance.—Being largely identified with casualty insurance business in the United States, and having also a considerable proportion of its funds invested in America, this Corporation had a difficult time in 1931. The total premium income has decreased from £7,430,000 to £6,481,000, due not only to a reduction in the volume of employment and in wage rates, but also to the fall in the value of commodities. Of the total premium income, approximately 90 per cent. is drawn from the United States. Considering the difficult position, the underwriting results as a whole have been not unsatisfactory:—

	1930 Profits. Amount. £	Percentage of Premiums.	1931 Profits. Amount. £	Percentage of Premiums
Fire	27,385	6·3	20,218	5·2
Accident	23,742	6·0	− 12,586	−3·4
General	156,157	2·4	304,110	5·2
Investment and Exchange Profits	49,218		16,373	
Gross surplus	256,502		328,115	
Less taxes	248,573		236,425	
Net trading surplus	7,929		91,690	

Interest earnings are practically unaltered at £295,000, and would virtually have sufficed to meet the dividend at the same rate as for 1930. As a precautionary measure, however, the rate has been reduced from 100 per cent. to 90 per cent. The corporation has not, of course, escaped losses on its securities, for of the total investments of £8¼ millions, £6½ millions are represented by Stock Exchange securities, and of these £5¼ millions are American securities. These securities are valued at par of exchange, and, on this basis, the excess of the book values over market values is £1,220,000. If the dollar securities had been valued at current rates of exchange, the book values would be increased by £1,860,000, though, on the other hand, the liabilities if valued on the same basis would have required some £1,760,000 more than their book values. There is an investment reserve which has been increased by £100,000, and now stands at £500,000, and, in addition, there is, of course, a large general reserve, exceeding £2½ millions. The report also hints that there are assets other than Stock Exchange securities which are worth considerably more than their book value. Another cause of anxiety during the year has been the operations of the corporation's subsidiary, the Merchants Marine, whose accounts are also reviewed in this issue. This company, which was purchased in 1921, for £750,000, now stands in the books at £125,000. There is, however, an uncalled liability of £375,000, and £125,000 of this is to be called up immediately to provide funds to enable the company to repay an advance of just under £100,000 owing to its parent.

Abstainers' and General Insurance.—Founded originally in 1883 as the Blue Ribbon Insurance Company, the name was subsequently changed to the Abstainers' and General, but the company has throughout been identified particularly with Quakers and the transaction of temperance business. In pursuance of this policy a separate Abstainers' section is maintained, and life policies are issued to abstainers at a rebate on the normal rate charged to non-abstainers, it being claimed that the mortality of the former is superior. More recently fire and general business has been added to the company's activities, and the total assets now amount to £3¼ millions. In the life department in 1931 the sums assured under new policies issued amounted to £695,000, compared with £730,000 in 1930. Owing to the rise in the rate of income tax, the net rate of interest earned is 2s. 5d. per cent. lower, at £4 13s. 5d. per cent., and the proportion of premium income absorbed in expenses and commission is unchanged at the rather high figure of 20 per cent. The premium income in the fire and general branches, which have shown a steady expansion each year, now amounts to £31,000, and provided last year a net trading surplus, apart from interest, of £3,300, as compared with £5,800 in 1930. Investments are carried in the balance sheet at the book values on December 31, 1930, when the last triennial valuation was made. Of the total of £3¼ millions nearly £1½ millions is invested in mortgages, and £800,000 in British Government securities. With regard to the former, a large proportion of the mortgages are in the form of small advances to policyholders for the purpose of purchasing their own houses, the rate of interest generally charged being 5½ per cent.

Provincial Insurance Company.—Although this company, in common with all investing institutions, was a heavy sufferer from depreciation last year, the real feature of the 1931 report is once again the extraordinarily good underwriting results—achieved on this occasion in a particularly difficult year. Details of the last two years' accounts are set out below:—

	1930. Amount. £	Percentage of Premiums.	1931. Amount. £	Percentage of Premiums.
Fire	18,631	10·6	20,010	11·8
Employers' Liability, Accident and General	41,454	6·7	49,299	7·1
Marine	−4,991	− 5·2	−5,139	− 6·0
	55,094		64,170	
Less income tax, &c.	12,751		17,272	
Less losses on investments realised	...		9,776	
Less allocation to staff pensions and profit-sharing	18,096		8,717	
Total net underwriting surplus	24,247		28,405	

Fire premiums are slightly down at £170,000, but the accident and general account shows a substantial increase in premiums from £621,000 to £698,000. The marine account shows further contraction to £86,000, and, although there is again a small loss, this represents little more than the interest earnings which have been left in the account. The total 1931 underwriting profit is stated to constitute a record in the history of the company. Interest earnings show little change at £20,500. The dividend has been maintained for the fourth year in succession at 20 per cent., and in normal times is capable of a further increase, since the cost of the preference and ordinary dividends combined is covered by interest earnings with some £12,000 to spare. The report is again overshadowed by the stock market depreciation, and this has been responsible for a further fall of approximately 10 per cent. of the invested funds, *i.e.*, 10 per cent. of about £780,000. This result, since it is actually less than the depreciation suffered last year by British Government stocks, may be regarded as not unsatisfactory, and the depreciation has been met by an increase of £75,000 in the contingency fund, which now amounts to £110,000. General reserve has been drawn upon for £35,000, reducing the item to £160,000, and the sum of £9,000 has been released from reserve in the marine account.

Maritime Insurance Company.—The accounts of this company illustrate markedly the need for revising and extending the scope of the Assurance Companies Act, 1909, which governs the conduct of insurance business and the form of the accounts to be returned to the Board of Trade. This Act does not apply to marine companies, and the Maritime Insurance Company presents its accounts in a form wherein the claims are lumped together in one item irrespective of the underwriting year to which they relate. The only possible indication of progress, therefore, is the course of the claims paid over a series of years. Moreover, the investments in the balance sheet are lumped together in one item, which now amounts to over £1¼ millions, and there is no attempt whatever to classify the investments into various groups of securities. Such indications as are afforded by the 1931 report suggest that the company, which has throughout succeeded in showing a profit on its marine business, has had a more profitable experience in 1931. The amount transferred to profit and loss account in 1931 is £30,000, compared with £20,000 in 1930, and the premium income is now £331,000. The company, which is controlled by the Scottish Union and National, is in a strong position, for, as compared with a paid-up capital of £500,000, there is a general reserve of £200,000, and a profit and loss balance of £352,000. For the first time for many years the investments stand at a book value in excess of the market value, but the difference, namely £33,000, is small.

Standard Life Assurance.—The Standard has achieved the considerable feat of maintaining unchanged its full rate of reversionary bonus for 1931, and it has done this in spite of depreciation which on assets of £22 millions must have amounted to a very large sum. A study of the 1931 accounts now published indicates that the company is fully justified in this demonstration of its strength. The valuation was made as before on a basis which, for stringency, is not excelled by any other British Life Office, and the results are as follows:—

	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Surplus earned during the year	363,988	374,287	376,592
Surplus income transferred from guarantee fund	30,923	36,944	42,282
Brought forward from previous year.....	21,811	25,717	28,520
	416,722	436,948	447,394
Allocations—			
To bonuses to policyholders	291,005	308,428	317,369
„ Transfer to inner reserve	...	...	85,000
„ Guarantee Fund.....	100,000	100,000	...
„ Pension Fund	...	...	15,000
„ Carried forward to next year.....	25,717	28,520	30,025
	416,722	436,948	447,394

The ordinary reversionary bonus of 42s. per cent. compound has been earned with a smaller, though still satisfactory, margin, and £100,000 has again been transferred to reserves. On this occasion, however, £85,000 of this sum has been utilised to strengthen what are termed "inner reserves," the purpose of which is not revealed either in the report or in the chairman's speech, and £15,000 has gone to provide for pensions. The guarantee fund now amounts to £1,650,000, and was created five years ago as security for the issue of £850,000 5 per cent. perpetual stock. Thus, the fund is now nearly double the nominal liability against which it was created, and the 1931 allocations to reserve bear the impress of devices to obviate an increase in carry forward. The surplus thrown off by the company's exceedingly stringent basis of valuation is so large that it may well find itself placed in the dilemma of being forced either to raise the ordinary bonus to a level which may not be justified by the scale of premiums or to "slice the lemon" by a special distribution to the policyholders. The balance sheet shows total assets of almost £22 millions, and the chairman stated in his speech that notwithstanding the depreciation of 1931 there is "still a good margin on the right side between the market and balance sheet values of our assets." This is a satisfactory statement, for it must mean that, assuming the depreciation of 1931 was in the neighbourhood of £1,000,000, the hidden reserves must have largely exceeded that figure at the beginning of the last financial year. The classification of the assets shows two movements of some interest during the year; firstly, a substantial increase in holdings of British Government securities, the amount having risen from £4,100,000 to £4,900,000, and a proportionately larger increase in holdings of ordinary shares from £1,870,000 to £2,730,000, the latter being equivalent to 13 per cent. of the total assets. With regard to the business of the year, although the sums assured under new life policies issued declined from £3,141,000 to £2,764,000, the total volume of new business issued was greater than in the preceding year, since Capital Redemption policies were effected for £644,000 compared with only £68,000, and once again a large annuity business was transacted.

Universal Automobile.—Although founded only a few years before the war, this company has devoted itself exclusively to motor car insurance, and its business has, therefore, shown a very rapid expansion. This tendency was accentuated in 1930 by the compulsory insurance conditions of the Road Traffic Act, and the premium income rose during the year by £31,000 to £154,000. The underwriting profit earned was £2,210, equal to 1.4 per cent. of the premiums, compared with £1,554, equal to 1.3 per cent., in 1930. A dividend of 12 per cent. has been declared for many years, but the interest earnings by themselves would permit this rate to be doubled. The Stock Exchange investments, which are entered at cost at £82,000, were on December 31st last worth, on market prices, £76,700. The book values have, however, been retained unaltered, and no provision has been made for the depreciation, as the directors state that, taken at to-day's prices, the market value now exceeds the book value. The company is a tempting morsel for an acquisitive composite office.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Finance — Capital — Prices — Industry.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, March 22.

WHILE political leaders have struggled to lift Congress out of the taxation morass, financial markets have marked time and trade has barely managed to hold its own. The situation at Washington is not hopeless, but it is discouraging that so much callousness can exist among Congressmen toward so pressing a problem as balancing the Budget. Special interests and the conflicting wishes of different parts of the country have inevitably come forward to attack first one and then another provision of the new revenue measure, and it is now a matter of guesswork as to which provisions will be retained and which abandoned in order to secure passage of the whole.

In its general outlines the measure, which has the sponsorship of leaders of both the Republican and Democratic parties and the Administration, seeks to raise about $600 millions with a 2½ per cent. tax on manufactured products, to be collected at the source. An increase in income tax rates to about the 1924 levels, along with a lowering of exemptions, is to raise a similar amount. Judged solely on its merits as a taxation measure, the Bill provides much material for criticism. Business men are afraid that the tax on manufactures will multiply a few times before the goods reach the consumer, that it will be difficult to collect, and that it will tend further to depress business. Labour leaders and others of a Socialistic turn oppose it because they claim that the chief burden will fall upon the poor.

It now appears that with the elimination of food products, including tinned and bottled foodstuffs, as well as exemptions for clothing and medicines, the expected revenue from the Bill will drop by $150 millions, but that

support enough may be obtained to pass it. Meanwhile the gap will have to be filled in, and this probably will be done through substitution of special Excise taxes, such as a gasoline tax, or possibly an increase in postage rates. The move for a 4 cents a pound duty on copper was abandoned, as it was realised that such a measure would produce no revenue, but a small import tax on oil is possible.

The proposed sales tax is disliked by nearly everyone, but it is realised that the supreme need is a balanced Budget. For this reason other features of the Tax Bill probably will be opposed only mildly. One of these is the provision to limit writing off losses on stock and bond sales to the extent of the gains in any one year, this being, of course, the equivalent of a gross receipts tax. However sharp the struggle may be, it is reasonably certain that Congress will pass a measure capable of balancing the Budget for the coming fiscal year, and may later make a real start toward reduction of expenditure. Fortunately there is full respect in the best quarters for the good standing of this country's credit, and even in Congress the opposition to an adequate tax measure is weakening.

Certain other proposals calculated to delay restoration of confidence have not yet been disposed of. There is still an active demand for another large soldiers' bonus, and also for a large Federal appropriation to be given the States for poor relief. Meanwhile, the excitement in Congress over the activities of the Stock Exchange has somewhat subsided and an investigation into short selling has at least been postponed. Markets would be relieved if as much could be said of the threat contained in the revised Glass banking Bill. Senator Glass, after joining the constructive forces long enough to lend his name and influence to the Glass-Steagall Bill, designed to halt deflation, has brought in his proposed amendment to the Federal Reserve Act before Congress in but slightly modified form. Hearings on it will be held over the next ten days.

The revised measure retains the old idea of directional flow of credit, and of severe penalties on bank loans which may be used in speculation on stocks and bonds (though real estate speculation is not restricted.) It contains provisions also for increasing the reserve required under time deposits (which bankers estimate would be the equivalent in effect to the loss of $130 millions in gold), and altogether brings pressure which it is estimated would mean liquidation of $2,000 millions in bank investments. The practical effect of the Bill in its present form would doubtless be to drive from national to State charters the majority of the large banks and to force them to withdraw from the Reserve system. This would, of course, be unfortunate for the central banking system. Bad as the Bill is held to be, it is disliked mainly because it is introduced just at a time when other strong measures, with a fair prospect of success, are being taken to stem deflation and restore confidence in the security and commodity markets.

The first quarterly tax date passed with virtually no disturbance to money markets. The Treasury borrowed only $50 millions, and that was quickly paid back, but the natural slackness of the demand for credit has given money rates an easier appearance. In spite of the Treasury overdraft, Reserve system credit last week dropped $64 millions. Member banks repaid $87 millions to the system and bill holdings ran off $30 millions. There was a further drop of $22 millions in currency circulation and monetary gold stock rose $12 millions.

New capital issues are still confined mostly to municipal borrowing, running from $10 to $30 millions weekly, and the bond market has lately lost some of its strength. The tax-exempt issues of the Government have drawn some investment money from industrial and railroad bonds on the threat of heavier surtaxes and continued lack of business revival. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation has adopted a more liberal policy toward railroad loans, and will probably permit no defaults. President Hoover has announced that a survey of the situation reveals less need for railroad credit than had been expected. He places probable calls for aid to meet interest, maturities and expenses at between $300 and $400 millions. He thinks the Railroad Credit Corporation will supply $50 to $60 millions of this.

Income tax collections for the March quarter declined sharply, as was expected. For the first eighteen days collections for March were $152.4 millions, compared with $239.1 millions a year ago. As of March 15th the Treasury's deficit was $1,811 millions. Another $100 millions issue or thereabouts of Treasury bills will be announced shortly to meet maturities.

Trade statistics show little change in trend. Merchandise exports in February rose $5 millions over January to $155 millions, but were only two-thirds of last year's shipments. However, it was the first February in many years to show a rise over January, shipments to beat the British tariffs and larger cotton exports being responsible. Imports totalled $131 millions, a drop of $5 millions from January. Cotton consumption in February was 490,018 bales, against 435,337 bales in January and 438,376 bales a year ago. February payrolls increased a tenth of 1 per cent. in major industries, but employment fell three-tenths of 1 per cent., according to the Department of Labour.

Commodity prices are again unsettled. Copper is steadier on a tentative agreement for curtailment of copper production to 20 per cent. capacity and the likelihood that a number of producers will have to shut down entirely, but sugar has flattened on what appears to be abandonment of the Chadbourne plan. Rubber also has sunk to new low prices, and fears over the Farm Board's intentions have depressed wheat and cotton. The index for wholesale commodity prices of the Bureau of Labour statistics for February decreased nearly 1½ per cent. Farm products and foods lost most heavily. Prices by groups follow:—

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES

(1926 = 100·0).

Commodity Groups.	February, 1931.	January, 1932.	February 1932.
All commodities	76·8	67·3	66·3
Farm products	70·1	52·8	50·6
Foods	78·0	64·7	62·5
Hides and leather products	86·9	79·3	78·3
Textile products	70·9	59·9	59·8
Fuel and lighting materials	72·5	67·9	68·3
Metals and metal products	86·5	81·8	80·9
Building materials	82·5	74·8	73·4
Chemicals and drugs	83·3	75·7	75·5
Housefurnishing goods	88·1	77·7	77·5
Miscellaneous	71·5	65·6	64·7
Non-agricultural commodities	78·2	70·3	69·6
All commodities less farm products and foods	78·3	71·7	71·3

Excitement over the Kreuger episode has abated. There never was much real apprehension over difficulties on this side. It was known that short-term banking commitments here did not exceed $9 millions, of which no more than a third was held by one house, which also had investments in Kreuger and Toll of only about a million dollars. The view here is that pessimism over the company's future has been overdone on the European side. The affair nevertheless has had one unfavourable effect in that it has brought to the fore the losses of investors in this country in foreign obligations and enterprises, perhaps making more difficult the matter of a foreign debt settlement later. At the same time, the bombastic speeches in Congress over the unshaken stand of the country on debt reduction or cancellation may be taken with much salt.

FRANCE.

Budget — M. Flandin's Defence — Politics.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, March 30.

THE Budget for the nine-months "financial year" April 1st to December 31st, which the Finance Minister has just characterised as "marking the end of a chapter of French post-war finance," was disposed of by the Senate in the small hours of this morning, and will during the next twenty-four hours have been passed into law. As modified by the Upper Chamber, the Bill provides for

total expenditure for the nine months of 41,083,000,000 francs (equivalent, according to M. Flandin, to 53,182,000,000 francs for the whole year), and postulates an estimated surplus of 3,886 millions, or practically the same estimated surplus as originally forecast by the Chamber. The total expenditure, based on the full twelve months' scale, works out at 7,800,000,000 francs more than the 1929 Budget, the first voted by the present Legislature, and 10,700,000,000 francs more than the one voted for 1928 ("Stabilisation Year"). These figures, however, are admittedly purely arbitrary, and by common consent cannot be interpreted as representing the facts, for since 1928 practically no fresh taxation has been voted, expenditure has largely increased, and at the same time reductions of imposts totalling some 6,000,000,000 francs have been accorded, while during recent months the yield from taxation has proved less than Budget estimates.

The situation has been further upset by the serious reduction in revenue due to suspension of German reparation payments by the Hoover Moratorium. The present balanced Budget, nevertheless, has been arrived at in face of the fact that the expiring financial year will result, according to the Budget Rapporteur Général in the Senate, M. Abel Gardey, in a deficit of at least 3,000,000,000 francs, which will be increased to 6,000,000,000 francs if the suspension of German reparation payments be taken into account. This deficit must naturally have been substantially larger, as he points out, but for the fact that during the financial years 1930-31 and 1931-32 about 5,000,000,000 francs have been taken from the surplus funds in the hands of the Treasury towards meeting the successive deficits due to shortage from normal Budget sources. M. Gardey estimates that the drafters of the 1933 Budget will have to make provision for a deficit of certainly 3,000,000,000 francs on the coming nine months, apart from fresh expenditure already inevitable, as to the volume of which no exact total can yet be suggested. Everything points to the probability that, before the end of the present year, those responsible for the national finances will be faced with the double dilemma: (1) The necessity of securing either a resumption of German reparation payments or else a reduction or suspension of French war debt payments to Great Britain and the United States; or (2) the imposition of a heavy burden of fresh taxation, which the country's economic position will render impracticable. Striking evidence in support of the thesis that the limit of taxation has been reached, if not already surpassed, has been afforded during the past week by the remarkable action of the theatre, music-hall, cinema and other amusement industries who had made preparations to close all their establishments indefinitely as from last Tuesday and would undoubtedly have done so had not the Government at the last moment agreed to reduce forthwith the present scale of taxation on them.

The pending General Election—which it is now probable will be fixed for May 1st and 8th, immediately after those in Germany—has been the predominating factor overhanging the Budget discussions in both the Chamber and the Senate. On this occasion, however, the more or less reckless voting of demagogic expenditure which marked previous pre-general election Budget debates has been rendered impossible by the obviously difficult situation of the national finances. The Opposition has, therefore, taken back, for the purpose of creating electioneering capital, on the expedient of endeavouring to make the present Cabinet and its predecessors responsible for the country's present financial situation, and particularly in regard to the manner in which they are alleged to have "wasted," since the early days of 1930, the plethoric Treasury surplus then existing.

"On March 24, 1930," M. Chéron (the then Finance Minister) told the Senate, "I was able to announce that the reserve funds of the Treasury amounted to 19,971,000,000 francs. All that has since vanished, and now the Senate is asked to vote a Budget which is only [illegible] balanced. When there is a deficit in the Budget, it is to live on the Treasury, and when that is exhausted, the only way out is to raid the Sinking Fund."

M. Flandin immediately took up the challenge. The only means to muzzle electoral demagogy, he insisted, was to tell the country the truth. The present situation of France, like that of all other countries, was due to two causes:—(1) The State had become a tentacular State, projecting its arms to a constantly greater distance and into fresh domains every day; and (2) the State had become a Providence-State, whose beneficiaries were becoming more numerous and more exigent every day. The expenditure under the last Budget of the present four years' Legislature has been 8,000,000,000 francs more than the first one in that period, and the last Budget of the previous Legislature had been 9,000,000,000 francs more than that of the first one during that term.

Dealing with the Opposition accusation that Cabinets during the past two years have frittered away the Treasury's colossal surplus of 19,000,000,000 francs, M. Flandin stated that 2,000,000,000 francs had been handed over to the Caisse d'Amortissement, under the law stipulating for this form of disposal of Budget surpluses; 1,994,000,000 francs had been utilised to repay a foreign loan contracted at an onerous rate of interest; 1,500,000,000 francs had been used as cash payments to sufferers from war losses; 500,000,000 francs had been applied to re-equipment of the national economic plant; 800,000,000 francs for frontier defence; 1,600,000,000 francs to agricultural credit organisations, cheap housing, rural electrification and water supply; 2,700,000,000 francs had been lent to the Post Office (since covered by a P.T.T. bond issue); 1,950,000,000 francs advanced to the railways to cover deficits on working during the period 1921-26; 1,400,000,000 francs represented cession of foreign currency instruments, under the law of April 10, 1930 (Article 120); 700,000,000 francs had been advanced in loans to foreign Governments; and about 3,000,000,000 francs to various banks in distress. "A year ago," M. Flandin added, "I was told that it would be impossible to keep the Treasury going until December 31st last without issuing Treasury bills and that the Government coming into power after the elections would find the Treasury empty and would be faced with insurmountable difficulties. I took up the challenge, and down to the present moment I have not issued a single one of the 5,000,000,000 francs of Treasury bills authorised by the law of 1926; and I have done this in spite of the fact that the first few months of the year are a period of low water, as the inflow of direct taxation ceases in November and does not recommence until June. The incoming Finance Minister, after the elections, will not find the Treasury empty, however, for direct taxation is again beginning to come in, and he will be able, if necessary, to issue the whole intact volume of 5,000,000,000 francs Treasury bills."

GERMANY.

Bank Reorganisations — Transfer Moratorium — Michael Concern.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, March 29.

THE big banks of Berlin have been holding general meetings this week to pass the reconstitution schemes. For the Danatbank it was the last general meeting in its eighty-year history. In the general meeting of the DD Bank Herr Oskar Wassermann discussed developments since July 13th and joined issues with the critics of the bank's policy. Herr Wassermann sees the principal causes of the economic crisis in political mistrust and the intolerable burden of international indebtedness. After the July banking crisis the DD Bank was reproached with having made the decisive contribution to the collapse of the Danatbank by refusing, for reasons of competition, to take part in a joint rescue scheme by the other banks. Herr Wassermann denies this reproach. "We were," he said, "by no means so short-sighted that we failed to see what the consequences must be for all credit institutions, including ourselves, if one of the big banks closed its doors. But the disaster could no longer be avoided. It could only have been postponed as long as the Danat-

bank's lack of liquidity could be concealed from the public. After the foreign drain the other banks were no longer so liquid that they could secretly transfer to their colleague the sums which would have been necessary to support its milliards of liabilities. We had to be satisfied with localising the crisis."

The banks had already used up their hidden reserves in 1929 and 1930 and had bought large quantities of their own shares in 1930 and 1931. The fact that public funds were used to assist the banks is justified by Herr Wassermann on the grounds that the banks had been obliged to bear the consequences of the political developments of the last two years and that if the losses had not been confined to the banks they would have fallen heavily upon a very large section of the population.

One might approve or disapprove, continued Herr Wassermann, of the fact that a large part of the banking system had come under public ownership, but a commercial bank owned by the Government was in such irreconcilable contradiction to the essence of a banking system in a non-socialised community that the compulsory nationalisation of the banks which had been inevitable would have later on to be followed by their compulsory denationalisation.

The supervisory council of the DD Bank has now been reconstructed in accordance with the reform law. The council, which formerly had 120 members, is now legally limited to a maximum of 30, and the DD Bank is for the time being only appointing 16, of whom nine are former directors. A committee is being formed of the hundred or so retiring members of the supervisory council.

Herr Jakob Goldschmidt made a farewell speech in the general meeting of the Darmstädter Bank. He, too, dealt mainly with the events of July 13th, but he did not regard the collapse of the Danatbank as an isolated phenomenon; the banking system as a whole, he pointed out, was already fighting for its very existence.

Contrary to the original plans, Herr Goldschmidt is to retire altogether. He will not be on either the board of directors or the supervisory council of the Dresdner Bank, which is taking over the Danat Bank. It is significant of Herr Goldschmidt's position that this was especially lamented in the general meeting by the officials of the bank. Of the former principals of the Danatbank only Herr Bodenheimer is being taken over by the Dresdner Bank. The former Reichskommissar, Herr Bergmann, ex-Secretary of State, is to be a director. The dismissal of Herr Goldschmidt, which will not make the carrying out of the amalgamation any easier, is due to personal and political reasons. He will, however, continue to represent the bank on the supervisory boards of the principal industrial undertakings in which it is interested, including Vereinigte Stahlwerke, Krupp and A.E.G.

The declines in quotations for German dollar bonds last week have been attributed in New York to rumours in London that a partial suspension of the service of German foreign loans was impending. Last Thursday the Government issued a most emphatic contradiction of these rumours. It is no mere chance that they have arisen just now. The German foreign exchange situation is no secret, and it goes without saying that the growing acutness of this situation is preoccupying the responsible members of the German Government intensively, but all the responsible authorities are prefectly clear as to what the consequences would be of any decision which even resembled a transfer moratorium on private debts. It is therefore highly improbable that any important step will be taken before the Lausanne Conference unless an absolutely catastrophic deterioration in the trade balance takes place meanwhile.

Just before Easter the Industrie- und Privatbank of Berlin suspended payment. The bank acted as financier for the concern which was built up by Jakob Michael during the last ten years, and its failure means the final collapse of that formerly large and active group. Jakob Michael, especially in the years 1924-26, was regarded as one of the most prosperous German financiers, after very successful speculations in marks and in various pre-war loans. He really began in the chemical industry, but he was most active in the real estate market and in mortgage bank and insurance business. At times he controlled large numbers of shares in the leading German mortgage banks and in some of the oldest insurance concerns. The indiscriminate construction of a variety of properties of unequal value, however, in this case as in many others, proved a mistake, and the disintegration of the concern began in 1926. One holding after another had to be disposed of, so that now only a relatively small part of German economy is effected by the failure.

AUSTRIA.

Banking — Railways — Industry — Trade.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, March 28.

AT the general meeting of the National Bank the new president, Dr. Kienböck, said that they might have to make some change in the policy of the bank of issue under his management. In the first place, a restrictive discounting policy is to be adopted. This can be done with greater ease than under Dr. Keinböck's immediate predecessor, who had continually to fight against the difficulties of banks, and was obliged to discount bills in order to save them from collapse. Dr. Kienböck does not want to discount any new finance bills of the Credit-Anstalt, and he hopes also to induce the other banks not to hand in any more finance bills and to do their best to meet those maturing. The increase in the rediscount fee for finance bills of exchange from ½ to ⅝ per cent. is not, however, a very effective weapon, and the chief pressure will be the absolute refusal to discount such paper.

The National Bank is to permit a certain relaxation of the foreign exchange restrictions and particularly to facilitate the use within the country itself of schilling credits belonging to foreigners. A start in this direction was observable at the Vienna Fair, and this was the principal reason why the Fair did not show a distinctly unfavourable results. Finally, Dr. Kienböck declared that the National Bank is prepared to stand a certain amount of loss in favour of the State in the settling up of the commitments of the Credit-Anstalt. Of the bills which were discounted by the National Bank to an amount of 547 million schillings under the guarantee of the State, the greater portion will not be collectable and will have to be written off.

The policy thus announced by the new president is already being pursued, but on an average only ½ to ¾ per cent. of the sums applied for in foreign means of payment is being allowed. The reason is that the National Bank must see to it that within the next few weeks very important sums are on hand for coupon purposes. For instance, in the first place, $900,000 are payable abroad for the Vienna municipal loan; further, about 50 million schillings in foreign means of payment must be found for the interest and amortisation service of the League of Nations loan. In this connection, great significance is attached by Austrian economic circles to the resolution of the Financial Committee of the League of Nations, which states that Austria is in need of a loan in order to survive the crisis without giving up the service of the foreign loans. This clearly characterises the seriousness of the situation.

On the occasion of the general meeting the president of the National Bank called upon the public to be reserved in its judgment of the further development of the State finances and of the affairs of the Credit-Anstalt and to cultivate a little optimism. This appeal would be gladly responded to in Austria if so many disappointments had not already been suffered. Still, the position of the schilling abroad is somewhat firmer, especially in Czechoslovakia and Italy, particularly as there has been a demand there for schilling notes for travelling purposes and for the Vienna Fair. At the same time, the checking of foreign exchange traffic is most stringent at the frontiers.

The last reduction of the bank rate from 8 to 7 per cent. met a long-felt need of business interests, by whom it was pointed out that the high bank rate was not attracting

foreign capital. The banks have also reduced their rates of interest on credits and loans outstanding by 1 per cent. At the savings bank the state of deposits is satisfactory, and, in any case, better than at the banks. In consequence, the savings banks are again issuing modest mortgage credits, whereas they had previously been refusing practically all applications.

Attempts are being continued at the Federal Railways to bring about an improvement in the financial situation through reform of the administration. The bureaucratic apparatus is to be simplified and the train of departments bridged. It is certainly a fact that the management of the Federal Railway is much too large and more extensive than it was under the old monarchy, when there was really a big system to operate. Within the last few days some of the officials have begun to object energetically to the constant experiments in reform which are being made without any practical success. The Federal Railways intend to proceed with electrification on individual stretches, and they are of the opinion that the necessary credits might be obtainable from the electricity industry against long-term annuities. The constant deficit will not be eliminated in this manner, especially as motor competition is steadily growing.

Unemployment is being reduced at a very slow pace. In Vienna during the first half of March it was 128,650, which means 14,644 more than last year. In the whole of Austria there are 360,000 in receipt of benefit. In the provinces, too, there is no improvement as yet, but a good deal of foreign tourist traffic is anticipated for summer, and there is consequently some investment going on and requiring labour. The Alpine Montangesellschaft intend to start producing coarse sheeting again, as the agreement between the Alpine Montangesellschaft and the Czechoslovakian foundries is not to be renewed. One of the provisions of this agreement was that the Alpine should have charge of the sale of Czechoslovakian sheeting in Austria so long as it did not resume the production of sheeting at its own works at Zeltweg. Employment at the textile mills is fair, though slowing down is observable here, too. Coal raising in Austria is to be promoted by greater use of brown coal on the part of industry and the railways. Whereas the Federal Railways last year used only 25 per cent. of Austrian coal, at the present time contracts for 87 per cent. of their coal requirements have been given to Austrian mines. It is intended to cover requirements in Austria up to 50 per cent.

The clearing treaty with Switzerland continues to be unfavourable for Austria, and for this reason notice of cancellation has been served. Up to the present the Austrian payments have been almost four times as high as those of Switzerland. Fresh trade-treaty negotiations are in progress, among them an agreement concluded between Austria and France for the purpose of promoting the exportation of Austrian timber. France raised an objection, because its schilling credits in Austria could not be easily disposed of on account of the foreign-values regulations. Austrian exports of timber are now to be paid for the greater part out of the schilling credits for French account in Austria, which are estimated at 15 million schillings at least. Timber exports are, however, still to be subject to the previous contingent clauses, while Austria has been obliged to give up the privilege it previously enjoyed in regard to the French duties on timber. Under certain circumstances this might be unfavourable for Austria, and especially if the proposed big increase on all timber duties in France should take place. It is possible that the Dutch schilling credits will also be liberated in order to afford Holland the opportunity to make purchases in Austria. Roumania is also endeavouring to procure the liberation of about eight million schillings, which it has lying in Austria, the intention being to buy goods in the country. A new treaty has been concluded with Italy, covering facilities for Austria for the exportation of cellulose, paper, timber and certain manufactures to Italy against facilities for Italy in regard to exports to Austria of southern fruits, olive oil, canned fish. With Brazil, too, exchanges are to be arranged. These relate to increased quotas of coffee from Brazil and increased exports of Austrian industrial products to Brazil. It is hoped to reserve to Brazil 90 per cent. of Austria's requirements of coffee, the present percentage being only about 60 per cent.

The negotiations which are now being carried on with the banks, insurance companies and savings banks in regard to the taking up of eight million schillings in Housing Loan have not proved easy, because the credit institutes are anxious to maintain and enhance the liquidity of their resources, and because resale to the public would not be an easy matter. It is now possible, however, that the national insurance institution will take up the greater part of this loan.

HUNGARY.

Danube Plan — Trade — Exchange Control.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUDAPEST, March 29.

THE news that a conference of the Great Powers has been called in London to examine the recommendations of the Financial Committee of the League and the reconstruction plan of Monsieur Tardieu concerning the Danubian States has been received here with great satisfaction. The desperate economic conditions of the Danube Valley and the financial difficulties of the Border States call for urgent and efficient action by the Great Powers, who are in a position to offer the necessary financial assistance and can use their good offices to eliminate the political divergencies between the Succession States. Hungary is willing to be a party to any big economic unit wherein she can sell her agricultural surplus products, and would favour, therefore the closest possible economic co-operation with Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Italy. The trend of Hungary's foreign trade is shown in the following table:—

Imports from	1930. Value in Million Pengö.	1931. Value in Million Pengö.	1930. Percentage of Total Trade.	1931. Percentage of Total Trade.
Austria	94·8	69·5	11·5	12·6
Czechoslovakia	172·9	50·1	21·0	9·1
Roumania	72·9	71·2	8·9	13·0
Jugoslavia	42·1	39·8	5·1	7·2
Four Successor States together	382·7	230·6	46·5	41·9
Germany	175·0	132·6	21·2	24·1
Italy	41·4	31·7	5·0	5·8
Other countries	224·3	154·7	27·3	28·2
Total imports	823·4	549·6	100·0	100·0

As can be seen from the above figures, nearly three-quarters of Hungary's imports came from the Successor States and Germany and Italy; and, as is shown in the following table, more than three-quarters of her exports went to these States in 1930; the drop in 1931 is due only to the temporary cessation of trade with Czechoslovakia on account of the Customs war.

Exports to	1930. Value in Million Pengö.	1931. Value in Million Pengö.	1930. Percentage of Total Trade.	1931. Percentage of Total Trade.
Austria	256·0	170·9	28·1	30·1
Czechoslovakia	153·2	24·2	16·8	4·3
Roumania	29·4	20·1	3·2	3·6
Jugoslavia	51·8	32·6	5·7	5·7
Four Successor States together	490·4	247·8	53·8	43·7
Germany	94·1	68·4	10·3	12·6
Italy	117·3	57·3	12·9	10·1
Other countries	209·9	193·6	23·0	33·6
Total exports	911·7	567·1	100·0	100·0

Few people realise either in Britain or in Hungary that in 1931, apart from the Successor States, Germany and Italy, the most important market for agricultural exports was Great Britain. While imports from Britain declined from 84.2 million pengö in 1930 to 20.6 millions in 1931, exports to Britain increased from 51.5 to 55.4 million pengö, thus leaving a favourable balance of 84.8 million pengö, as against 17.3 millions in the previous year. The development of exports to Britain is particularly important, because though Hungary's trade is, for

instance, largely active with Austria, the Austrian currency cannot be used either for the payment of foreign obligations contracted in dollars and sterling or for the purchase of the necessary raw materials.

The total value of exports, which declined from 911.7 million pengö in 1930 to 567.1 millions in 1931, will further deteriorate in 1932, unless a miracle happens. Comparative figures for January-February in the last four years are as follows:—

January-February.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
		In Million Pengö.		
Imports	153·8	127·4	86·7	53·9
Exports	105·9	140·0	80·5	47·1
Balance	−47·9	+12·6	−6·2	−6·8

As can be seen from these figures, imports have fallen to scarcely one-third of the 1929 volume, owing to the foreign exchange regulations and to the decline of purchasing power, which is determined solely by the merchandise export now that the financing of imports by foreign borrowing has stopped. The catastrophic fall in exports is due partly to the trade barriers and currency regulations of other countries and partly to the inability of Hungary to compete with Poland, Roumania, Jugoslavia, etc., owing to the inflated price level. No improvement can be hoped for so far as exports are concerned until harvest time.

The National Bank has issued a very interesting survey of the foreign exchange control, which has been in force now for eight months. It is stated that from August 1, 1931, till March 15, 1932, the amount of the export *devisen* surrendered to the bank amounted to 100.2 million pengö, which is less than one-third of the total merchandise exports in the same period. Another 30 million pengö was notified to the bank by exporters who were permitted to import raw material within the limits of the compensation scheme sanctioned by the bank. The bank has allowed 69.9 million pengö in foreign exchanges for merchandise imports, which sum, together with the 30 million pengö covered by the compensation agreements and 7.7 millions used for imports from private balances with the permission of the bank, makes a total of 108 million pengö, which is again scarcely one-third of the total value of the imported goods in the period August, 1931-March, 1932. With the building up of the commercial clearing treaties under the auspices of the bank and the more effective regulation of export, it is hoped that about two-thirds of the currency necessary to carry on foreign trade will be subject to the control of the authorities. In such circumstances there is, of course, very little hope of procuring the foreign exchanges necessary for the service of Hungary's huge foreign debt. It is worth while to remember that the value of the total merchandise exports of January and February, amounting to 23.8 million and 23.3 million pengö respectively, would not suffice to meet the monthly service of the foreign debts, amounting approximately to 800 million pengö per annum. At best it will be possible to transfer the service of the League Loan and the B.I.S. credit, which is permitted by the British Standstill Agreement.

The French creditors show little eagerness to come to terms with their Hungarian debtors on the lines of the British Standstill Agreement which is now being signed by all the creditors and debtors concerned in London and in Budapest. The great merit of the British Standstill Agreement is that it brings within the control of the National Bank and its advisers all the interest and commissions deposited in pengö at the bank. On the other hand, it is much to be regretted that investments in real estates and stocks are permitted, for these transactions would further inflate the already inflated price level and would create vested interests and discriminations between the creditors which would make the liquidation of the transfer moratorium much more difficult in the future.

JUGOSLAVIA.

Production — Foreign Trade — Financial Conditions — Budget.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, March 14.

THE end-year industrial and trade reports show unmistakably how deep and general is the present crisis. The mining output of practically all ores has declined, and in the cases of copper and iron the fall amounts to 35 per cent. and 74 per cent. respectively, as compared with the same quarter last year. The timber industry is working at only 50 per cent. of its capacity, while the alcohol, meat products, sugar, oil, paper, glass, shoes, carbide, and artificial manure trades are equally hard hit. Agriculture is at a low ebb. New credits placed in the villages by the Privileged Agrarian Bank during 1931 amount to only 349 million dinars, against 757 millions placed during 1930, and owing to the difficulty of obtaining cash for agricultural products many villages are penniless. It is for these reasons that the internal wheat monopoly is now being rescinded, and that the discussion of the formation of a Danubian economic *bloc* is being followed with interest, if not with much solid hope.

Foreign trade figures place exports for 1931 at 3,323,416 tons, valued at 4,801 million dinars, against imports of 1,133,110 tons, valued at 4,800.3 million dinars, thus giving, on paper, a favourable balance of 700,000 dinars. The total volume of trade at 9,600 million dinars compares with a total volume of 13,740 million dinars in 1930, when exports amounted to 6,780 and imports to 6,960 million dinars. The full extent of the decline will best be realised, however, if we compare these figures with the total volume of 15,510 million dinars in 1929—the fall in trade during the past two years being about 40 per cent.

It cannot be said that any improvement has been noticeable during the first quarter of 1932. Unemployment, although not catastrophic in an industrially undeveloped country, is on the increase, and poor relief is being organised by many municipalities. Bankruptcies, it is true, have increased only slightly, but the figures are completely misleading, since in addition there are many "compulsory settlements," as well as latent bankruptcies which are allowed by creditors to go on for fear lest everything may be lost. Foreign trade figures for January are: exports 218.2 and imports 228.2 million dinars, as compared with 384 and 410 million dinars respectively in January, 1931.

On the other hand, financial confidence is gradually reviving, although this process has not reached a point at which new credits are being opened. Bank deposits, which at the end of September were 13,235 million dinars, and which reached their lowest ebb during November, have begun to come back, and although their total for the end of December was only 12,170 millions, it may be confidently anticipated that the end of March figures will not be far short of 13,000 millions. The Bourse has shown a bullish sentiment since the end of January, and the tightness of the money market has in general relaxed. The State, which borrowed 431 million dinars from the National Bank during January, has taken only 6 millions more during the past six weeks. Loans issued by the Bank are gradually trickling back, although at a rather slow rate. Many obligations "at sight" are being turned into "long-term obligations," which eases the problem of circulation, since only those at sight need be covered by metal. The cover itself has been reduced since December from 2,068 to 1,945 million dinars, and the circulation from 5,172 to 4,861 million dinars. The relation of cover to paper has declined from 37.51 per cent. to 36.53 per cent. At the moment it may be said that Jugoslavia is standing the financial strain better than any of the Danubian or Balkan countries on which she borders, and, given a reasonable chance of economic improvement in Europe, should be able to pull through.

Much of this is reflected in the Budget for 1932-33, which still awaits the approval of the Senate. Its total of 11,400 million dinars is 1,800 million dinars less than that for 1931-32, and is the smallest for any Budget since

1931-32. It is characterised by severe all-round cuts, the biggest being in the Ministries of War and Education. All Civil Servants' supplements and bonuses are being reduced by amounts varying between 5 per cent. and 11 per cent., this being the second reduction since October 1st, and all capital expenditure which could be postponed has been cut out. The average saving, taking each Ministry separately, is 20 per cent. One item alone is larger than in the preceding Budget, namely, State debts, amounting to 1,558 million dinars, against 1,220 millions. This is partly due to the natural increase in the scale of repayments, and partly to service of the two new loans concluded during 1931—the 1,000 million French francs stabilisation loan and the 250 million French francs credit granted in October. The scale of estimated receipts has also been considerably lowered, particularly in the case of direct taxation, which has been reduced from 1,601 millions to 1,170 million dinars. To make up for some of the losses, the Stamp Duty has been raised and educational fees introduced—education having hitherto been completely free. Two points in the Budget deserve particular mention. One is that no receipts from reparations have been entered in the estimates, and the other is the statement of the Finance Minister that the floating debt, amounting to 700 million dinars, will be repaid in the course of six years, bearing interest in the interim. The Budget has revealed some interesting figures as regards Treasury receipts during the first eight months of the financial year 1931-32. The total receipts were 7,330 millions, against 8,092 million dinars in 1930-31. Indirect taxes have declined from 2,435 millions to 2,052 millions, direct from 1,484 millions to 1,210 millions, and monopoly receipts from 1,622 millions to 1,515 million dinars. Receipts from railways, posts, telegraphs, State forests and mines were roughly the same as during the preceding year.

SPAIN.

Politics — Finances — Bank of Spain.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRID, March 12.

THE past month has not witnessed the political changes that were anticipated; and Señor Lerroux's speech, on February 11th, the announcement of which had awakened intense interest throughout the country, did not prove entirely satisfactory either to his listeners in general or to the Radical Party. It is realised that Señor Lerroux's advanced age is beginning to tell on him, and that his aggressive spirit is on the wane. The result has been a further rise in the prestige of Señor Azaña, the Prime Minister, who continues to pull the wires within the Government. Whatever the final outcome may be, the country is grateful for a respite in political bickerings; and the Bolsa reflected, perhaps with exaggeration, the optimism which resulted.

On the other hand, the peseta continues weak, and the easing of restrictions as to trading between banks has not improved the situation. The index of the cost of living, slightly higher in 1931 than in the previous year, has not followed the course of the peseta as compared with gold currencies. At the end of 1930 the peseta showed a depreciation of 45 per cent., which increased to 53 per cent. on December 31, 1931, while the index of the cost of living in Spain only moved from 172 to 175 during the same period. This stability of prices in the face of a depreciating currency is, in a great measure, due to the world crisis which has enabled Spain to avoid the unpleasant results which have accrued in other countries under similar exchange conditions. Furthermore, the economic isolation of the country with respect to the rest of Europe has proved to be a safeguard against the repercussion of economic disasters abroad.

The issue of Treasury bonds, which is to be made shortly, is the subject of much comment on the Stock Exchange. Generally speaking, Government securities have weakened of late, probably thanks to sales made with the object of providing funds for subscription to the new issue on the supposition that the terms will present certain advantages over previous issues. It would appear that, following the usual custom, the Bank of Spain will allow advances up to 90 per cent. of the current quotations of the new Treasury Bonds, but that institution is not in favour of a reduction of the interest rate on such advances. This would induce the banks to take up large packets of bonds, thereby eliminating to some extent the small subscribers. In the past, banks have been able to realise large profits on Government issues by exaggerating their subscriptions and paying for 90 per cent. of them with money borrowed from the Bank of Spain. The bonds allotted to them were either resold on the market at a profit or held for the difference between the interest produced by the bonds and that charged by the Bank of Spain for the advances, the latter being invariably less than the former. It is not surprising, therefore, that all Government issues made of late years in Spain have been very considerably oversubscribed.

Taking advantage of the favourable atmosphere which existed a week ago, and the proximity of the issue of Treasury Bonds, several private issues of shares and bonds have been offered to the public with satisfactory results. The market conditions have, however, changed somewhat; and, at the time of writing, owing to a revival of social troubles in the provinces, the Bolsa has lost some of its buoyancy.

The reduction of Government expenditure, which, it was announced, would be enforced with an iron hand, has been toned down to meet political exigencies. On the other hand, railway construction and hydraulic works are being carefully sifted, and only the most essential are to be authorised, while the thousands of schools which the Minister of Education announced his intention of building will probably not take tangible form for some time to come.

The annual report of the Bank of Spain indicates that during the year 1931 the bills discounted increased by Ptas. 2,278,000,000. This movement has continued during the present year; already discounts amount to 1,218 millions, compared with 773 millions in the corresponding period of last year, and these figures are an indication of the severe economic crisis through which the country is passing. The profits of the Bank of Spain amounted to Ptas. 169,261,976. Including the carry forward from 1930, and after deducting charges, the net profit was 120 million pesetas. The dividend of 26 per cent. absorbs Ptas. 46,020,000 and 64 millions go to the Treasury in income tax, stamp duty and participation of the State in the profits of the Bank.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Gold Question — Public Debt — Diamonds.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, March 9.

THE Government of the Union continues obstinately with its policy of deflation and maintenance of the gold standard with a basic coin of 113 grains of gold. Whatever the ultimate outcome of the policy may be, the course of the discussion has been curious and regrettable, and becomes more so. Originally, the Government defended their attitude on the ground that their professional advisers anticipated a rise of sterling prices, which would give the Union producer for export a paying return for his produce. Then it could reasonably be considered in October last that the future of sterling was unpromising, or, at best, indefinite, and sterling seemed to be the only reasonable alternative. It is not clear why the rise in sterling prices was expected to help a gold-standard country, unless the gold equivalents of sterling prices were expected to rise—an event of which there has never been any sign. The ethical arguments against "compounding with creditors" were made much of, and still are, although almost all South African indebtedness overseas is payable in sterling. It is to be feared that the advice of General Smuts that the Union should leave the existing gold standard was not practically helpful, as the Government side are really unable to dissociate General Smuts' political or technical

statements from their strong dislike of the General himself.

The Prime Minister's closing speech in the debate on the proposed appointment of the Select Committee on the Gold Standard was an extraordinary utterance for a Prime Minister. General Hertzog candidly eschewed technical argument and devoted the whole of his remarks to criticism of the part played by General Smuts in the controversy. In the upshot, the South African Party members of the Committee were appointed without the formality of invitation, and resigned immediately the Committee was constituted and before any evidence was heard. The party view was that the Committee is a waste of time in view of the Government's announced decision that its object is to marshal arguments for the Government case rather than to investigate the whole position. The abstention may, in such circumstances, be understood, but is felt to be unwise, as it deprives the Committee of all members who combined with any understanding of the problem an attitude of opposition to the Government case.

In the meantime, the Government is proceeding with the measures ordinarily accompanying deflation. State expenditure is being pruned as rigorously as possible. All allowances have already been abolished, and now pensionable salaries are to be reduced, also the salaries of Ministers and the allowances to Members of Parliament. With all the forces tending so strongly towards economy, it is anticipated in Government circles that it may be possible to balance the Budget, although it may be more difficult to finance the loan account this year. Ordinarily the Public Debt of the Union increases by some £7 millions per annum. The Minister of Finance has been asked how he proposes to deal with this aspect of the matter, and has replied—not unnaturally—"Wait and see." The effect of this reply is spoiled by the widely held cynical opinion that that is what the Minister himself is doing.

Since Union, the Public Debt has increased by some £140 millions. Converting the net increases, year by year, in the ratio of the index of wholesale prices for the relevant year to the index for 1931, the burden of this is now equivalent to about £180 millions. Further than that, of course, in some lines—*e.g.*, wool—the burden of old debts in terms of the commodities whose production they were incurred to promote is now crushing. On the other hand, there may be some idea behind the Government's decision to the effect that rigid deflation will reduce our production costs and compel the writing down of the value of over-capitalised farms, as nothing else will. Moreover, the Government may quite reasonably doubt whether their supporters as a whole are to be trusted with the management of the currency. They fear that our last state might become worse than our present condition.

The diamond mines associated with De Beers and the Premier companies have been placed on a caretaking basis or are in process of being reduced to that position. It is much to be hoped that improvement in trade and some arrangement for effective control by the people who understand a highly specialised business will lead to a resumption of operations. Some £350 millions' worth of diamonds have been produced in the Union since 1870, and £25 millions have been paid to the Union Treasury since 1910, according to the Government Mining Engineer's Report. The Premier Mine alone has paid £8,000,000 to the Government as the share of profit. South Africa owes much to diamonds, and, on sentimental as well as business grounds, the present position of the industry is regrettable. The Government has admitted Mr I. W. Schlesinger to its confidence and commissioned him to carry on the cutting of diamonds from the diggings and the training of diamond cutters. Mr Schlesinger is a distinguished local financier, but his special qualifications to enter the diamond trade at a crisis in its fortunes are not obvious. The whole position has been the subject of an acrimonious debate in Parliament, and it cannot be said that the Government came through it with credit. In any case, the present Minister of Mines is not one of the Cabinet's most wisely chosen members, and it is unlikely that he will hold office again.

The present Parliament shows signs of having outlived its usefulness. The gold standard question is a cast of King Charles' head whatever the subject of debate, and only some other matter of really major interest can relieve the Whips of difficulty in maintaining a quorum. As the gold standard is before a Select Committee, members cannot discuss it on the floor of the House, and they prefer to discuss it in the Lobby to dealing with other business.

In the meantime, the gold-mining industry is revealing itself even to its most prejudiced critics as the one mainstay of the country, and if the present circumstances continue to favour an increasing scale of production, we may hear less of the fear that the world will seek some alternative currency basis.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

Economic Co-operation of Japan and China in Manchuria and Mongolia. By Yosuke Matsuoka. (Dairen) Chunichi Bunka Kyokai.

A brief exposition of the Japanese point of view.

Business Forecasting. By J. H. Richardson. 2s. 6d. net; *Finding Capital for Business.* By David Finnie. 2s. 6d. net; *Currency and Banking.* By D. T. Jack. 5s. net. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Limited, Parker Street, Kingsway.

Three additions to a very useful series.

Annual Report of the Director of the Mint, 1930-1931. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 75 cents.

A valuable source of gold and silver statistics.

The Manufacturing Industries of the British Empire Overseas. Part V, *Newfoundland and Crown Colonies and Protectorates.* (London) Erlangers, Limited, 4, Moorgate. 2s. 6d.

An exceedingly valuable collection of statistics.

The Functioning of the Gold Standard. By Dr. Felix Mlynarski. (London) Allen and Unwin, 38, Great Ormond Street. 3s. 3d.

A memorandum submitted to the Gold Delegation of the Financial Committee of the League of Nations.

Balance of Trade Delusions. By Edwin Cannan. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 1s. 6d.

The Sidney Ball lecture.

Economics: The Study of Wealth. By A. L. Gordon MacKay. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Limited, Parker Street, Kingsway. 5s. net.

A Searchlight on Gandhi. By the Author of "India on the Brink." (London) P. S. King and Son, Limited, Orchard House, Westminster. 8s.

Le Comte Albert Apponyi. By Alexandre Pethö. (Paris) Les Œuvres Représentatives, 41, Rue de Vaugirard. 12 francs.

Monetary Leadership. By J. F. Darling. (London) Ernest Benn, Limited, Bouverie House, Fleet Street. 2s. 6d. net.

A plan for an Empire currency.

Die Bank für Internationalen Zahlungsausgleich. By Dr. Hans L. Schlüter. (Berlin) Dr. Walther Rothschild.

Practical Aspects of Taxation. By A. W. Rawlinson and R. Hunter. (London) Gee and Co. (Publishers), Limited, 8, Kirby Street.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

Criminal Statistics, 1930. Cmd. 4036. 3s. 6d. net.

National Health Insurance Fund: Appendix to Accounts for the Year ended December 31, 1929. Cmd. 4030. 2d. net.

Forty-third Annual Report of the Railway and Canal Commission for the Year 1931. Cmd. 4036. 4d. net.

The Stock Exchange.

STOCK EXCHANGE REFORM.

Reform, like charity, best begins at home. There will be satisfaction among investors over the fact, announced in our last issue, that more than four-fifths of the total voting members of the Stock Exchange have taken the trouble to record their opinion in an unofficial referendum, and that nine-tenths of those who voted are in favour of joint discussions between the Trustees and the Committee for General Purposes "to obtain unity of control and interests." While we have frequently had occasion to congratulate the Stock Exchange Committee on its perseverance in the laudable task of making investment safer for the investor, we have never disguised our view that the internal government and constitution of the Stock Exchange are in some respects antiquated and inadequate. There is, indeed, a danger that, unless efforts are made from within to bring the Stock Exchange into line with the requirements of the modern investor, its business may dwindle, and attempts may be initiated, with greater prospects of success than on earlier occasions, to secure some of its connections for other bodies. The question of dual control forms an obvious starting-point for any comprehensive plan of Stock Exchange reform. Its origin has been fully dealt with in a pamphlet* circulated to members on the occasion of the recent vote. The original Deed of Settlement of the Stock Exchange, in 1802, appointed two managing bodies—the Trustees and Managers and a Committee for General Purposes. The latter had the sole management and direction of all the business of the undertaking, but the Trustees were responsible for the treasurership and the management of the buildings, including the determination of the price at which subscribers should be admitted to transact business as brokers or jobbers. Under a new Deed of Settlement, drawn up in 1875, however, it appears that the Managers and Trustees are compelled to carry on the Stock Exchange as a commercial undertaking in the interests of the shareholders—in other words, the Stock Exchange is to be regarded merely as a block of buildings leased to a body of members who, so far as the Trustees and Managers are concerned, might as well be dealing in old iron as in stocks and shares. In 1878, a Royal Commission on the Stock Exchange commented on a "Committee of Consultation" being the only means of communication between the two bodies, but no move for closer unity was made until 1908, when certain respected members formed an unofficial committee. After taking legal advice, this body drew up a scheme of reform. It was suggested that a new company should be formed, limited by guarantee, in which all Stock Exchange members, and members alone, should participate equally. The company was to be under the control of the Committee for General Purposes, and was to take a lease of the whole properties pending their ultimate purchase at a price of £3,600,000 (equal to £180 per share), rent being paid, meanwhile, to the Trustees and Managers, on behalf of the proprietors, at a rate not exceeding £200,000 in any year, this representing entrance fees, annual subscriptions, &c., less various expenses. This rent, it was understood, would be distributed by way of dividend to shareholders. Finally, all new members, after 1918, were to pay an additional subscription of £50 a year—to maintain a fund sufficient to produce the £3,600,000 required for the purchase of the properties at the end of thirty years. After amendment and revision the scheme was recommended for favourable consideration by a large majority of members, but the Trustees and Managers were hostile, and the proposal failed to secure acceptance at a share-holders' meeting.

The Stock Exchange is interested in the present revival of interest mainly because dual control is regarded as standing in the way of certain wider reforms. For example, the existing constitution of the Stock Exchange is believed to be responsible, in considerable part, for the absence of any Guarantee Fund to protect investors against loss arising out of the failure or defalcation of members. The Hatry failure showed that the Stock Exchange was fully alive to the necessity of protecting the public, for a Guarantee Fund of £1,000,000 was raised at short notice, but investors should not be left dependent on the charity, tempered by wisdom, of members of the Stock Exchange. The absence of any Guarantee Fund may tend, slowly but surely, to induce investors to place their dealings in the hands of other institutions who will guarantee the completion of their orders. From 1802 to 1868, Stock Exchange profits were not paid away to shareholders, but were used to improve and enlarge the buildings for the benefit of members as a whole. Subsequently this policy was radically changed, and profits began to be paid away entirely to shareholders. According to the pamphlet, to which we have previously referred, for the thirty-two years ended March, 1931, the total net revenue of the Stock Exchange amounted to £5,887,323, of which £5,698,000—some 96.78 per cent. of the whole—was paid to shareholders in dividends. If the present constitution, in fact, operates to prevent the appropriation of Stock Exchange profits for the maintenance of a Guarantee Fund, or other "internal" and useful purposes beyond the payment of dividends, there would appear to be a strong *prima facie* case for its modification.

There is, further, a substantial body of opinion which holds, rightly or wrongly, that Stock Exchange charges are high, from the viewpoint of the investing public, and that reform of the constitution would enormously strengthen the hands of the Committee in dealing with this matter. In practice, the issue largely centres round the question of the return of half-commission by stock-brokers to authorised agents. The Committee has already proposed to modify existing arrangements by making commissions returnable as to 50 per cent. to the joint-stock banks and as to 33⅓ per cent. to other agents, while allowing members to propose different arrangements for agents wholly employed by them. But the general public is inclined to ask whether the "House," in the last resort, must necessarily be dependent upon outside agents for new business. Is not "half-commission" the worst of all advertisements of the Stock Exchange? A policy of enlightened and controlled advertising might be more satisfactory in all respects than dependence on half-commission agents, who, in some cases, are employed not for their business qualifications, but for their social position and family connections, and whose business acumen is not infrequently conspicuous by its absence.

Some members may reply that the profitability of their business, at the present scale of commissions, is limited as much by high "overhead charges" as by the return of part-commission to agents. It will be generally admitted that increases in the price of Stock Exchange membership have been fairly frequent and onerous since the adoption of the 1875 Deed of Settlement. From £21 in 1876, annual subscriptions have been raised, successively, to £31 10s. (1879), £42 (1899), £52 10s (1917), £78 15s. (1919), and £105 (1920). The entrance fee for three-surety members was raised from £525 to £630 in 1917. In addition, no member can normally be elected unless he holds the nomination of a retiring or deceased member, which must be purchased. Thus, if an enterprising firm of brokers or jobbers has expanded its business by means of the intelligent service it provides for its clients, and finds it necessary to have more clerks to deal for its clients on the floor of the "House," it will have to apply, if it has reached the limit of "blue button" men, for another

* "The Stock Exchange and Its Constitution." Edited by [illegible] with the assistance of E. H. Davenport.

membership. This involves the payment of an entrance fee of £680, an annual subscription of 100 guineas, the acquisition of a minimum holding of Stock Exchange shares (now standing at £155), and the purchase of a "nomination," which at present costs £150-£200, but commands a much higher figure when Stock Exchange business is active. Incidentally, the system of purchases of "nominations" implies that members are deprived of the cost of their nominations at compound interest for the term of their membership. They are thus denuded of a portion of their working capital at the time they are most in need of it for the starting up of their business. If the sums paid by members for the purchase of nominations were contributed to a general fund, the results might be of much greater advantage to the Stock Exchange.

Whatever direction eventual reforms may take, it would seem that a condition precedent to their successful initiation must be the setting up of a single governing body with power to employ the receipts from its members' subscriptions in the interests of members as a whole and of the investing public. The Stock Exchange has no monopoly at law, but it has built up for itself a most valuable goodwill, which, in the general interest, it should make every effort to retain. For this reason we trust that those members who have once more raised the question of the abolition of "dual control" will not be weary of well doing, and that their proposals will be considered, by those in authority, sympathetically and on their merits.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

Ticket.	Account.
April 5.	April 7.

Paucity of business marked the resumption of trading after the holiday, and dealers remained apprehensive regarding the international position. A graver view was taken of the Kreuger position and the United States budgetary situation. International issues were affected by unloading from Brussels. Home issues, on the whole, showed gratifying stability in the face of these adverse influences, and the general tone, though quiet, was by no means depressed.

Gilt-edged securities were strong at first in sympathy with the appreciation of sterling. Apart from a little with the appreciation of sterling. Apart from a little subsequent profit-taking, prices were fairly well maintained. the year, and support was forthcoming for 4 per cent. "Consols." The London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority issue was well received. India loans were offered, the 4½ per cents. of 1950-55 being weak. Dominion stocks encountered profit-taking, particularly Commonwealth Fives. Home Corporation stocks remained firm.

In the Foreign market, a feature was a rise in German issues on bear covering following the news that Berlin official quotations would be resumed on April 12th. Austrians responded to more encouraging reports regarding pending interest payments, while Hungarian issues improved on an official statement that no new loan was being sought. Greek and Bulgarian loans remained, however, at default levels, unofficial reports of the League of Nations' finding being not altogether encouraging to bond holders. Sino-Japanese issues were firmer, despite the hitch in the Shanghai negotiations.

Disappointing holiday "traffic" figures caused a decline in Home Rails, particularly Midland and Scottish and Great Western, prior charges being also easier. Argentine traffics also made a poor showing, but quotations improved with the peso. American rails were firmer.

The industrial share market was again overshadowed by the Kreuger *débâcle*. A fresh slump occurred in Swedish Match, dealings becoming largely a matter of negotiation. Brussels was a seller of Hydro-Electric and Brazilian Traction. Cables and Wireless rallied after scattered selling. A fall occurred in Anglo-South American Bank "A" shares on interim dividend fears. Electric Supply shares were helped by the success of the new loan, and a steady investment demand continued. Engineering shares were dull. A small speculative demand was maintained for brewery shares on the prospects of taxation alleviation. Guinness recovered part of last week's "political" decline. Shipping shares were only slightly affected by the announcement of a "cut" in North Atlantic rates, and by the Cunard loss, after depreciation (discussed on page 747).

Paris was again a seller of oil shares, and most of the leaders declined in a narrow market. A further increase in United States crude oil production, however, failed to prevent the maintenance of a steady tone in mid-week. Rubber shares were lower where changed, the market reflecting the dullness of the commodity. Anglo-Dutch and Allied were marked lower. Tea shares were apathetic, as ever, apart from a small advance in Consolidated Tea and Lands.

Movements in the Mining share market were mainly by way of adjustment to the higher level of sterling. Falls occurred in the prices of all metals, tin quotations breaking sharply. "Kaffirs" were dull in the absence of Paris support. Brakpan were marked down and South African sales of Randfontein counteracted the effect of a good report. Movements in Rhodesians were few, though buyers were found for Globe and Phœnix. Wilums rose on a satisfactory progress report.

"Financial News" Daily Bargain Index.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Mar. 21, 1932.	Mar. 22, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 29, 1932.	Mar. 30, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,650	1,746	1,730	1,519	1,650	1,570	1,570
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities...	780	875	804	804	744	744	803
Commercial and Industrial*	1,660	1,621	1,668	1,520	1,494	1,573	1,601
Banks, Insurance and Financial ...	457	564	512	402	463	470	538
Mines (including Nitrate)	348	368	350	322	365	348	405
Oil.....	107	123	130	87	104	79	106
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	147	72	116	95	86	91	110
Total.....	5,149	5,369	5,310	4,749	4,895	4,468	5,133

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

"Financial News" Daily Average of 30 Industrial Ordinary Shares.

(1928 = 100.)

Highest of 1932. (Mar. 3.)	Lowest of 1932. (Feb. 11)	Mar. 21, 1932.	Mar. 22, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 29, 1932.	Mar. 30, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
63·7	58·8	62·5	62·3	62 3	62 5	62·4	62·4	62·1

We are officially informed that the Stock Exchange will be closed on Saturdays, April 16th, 23rd, and 30th next, in order to expedite certain structural alterations.

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

The markets were dismayed last week-end by the failure of the House of Representatives to vote the Sales Tax, and the resulting possibility of a badly unbalanced Budget and an encashment of $2,500 millions of veteran's bonus bonds, to make confusion worse confounded. The effect of Mr Garner's speech, on Monday, in bringing the House back to a sense of its duty was entirely favourable. Wall Street had no love for many of the specific proposals of the new financial programme, but regarded any practicable measures to balance the Budget as vastly preferable to a huge prospective deficit. Markets remained quiet, but the tone was firmer, a fair amount of short covering being induced by the imposition of restrictions on "backwardation" loans as from April 1st. Government bonds were particularly affected by Congress developments and showed only a moderate recovery as the week progressed. Heavy liquidation of Kreuger and Toll was accentuated by the pessimistic announcement of the Stockholm Committee, blocks of as many as 50,000 securities changing hands in single deals. A sharp break in International Telephone was arrested by the issue of a statement that the company had not delivered to Kreuger interests any of its own Common stock in exchange for its participation

...Telephone. Utility issues were unsettled by the move of a sharper decline in electric power output. Foster and Gamble was one of the few stocks which made an improved showing, the president circularising stockholders to the effect that business was running only 5 per cent. below the 1931 level, and that the regular dividend would be declared for the March quarter. Steel mill activity for the week ended March 26th was 22 per cent. of capacity, against 25 per cent. in the preceding week. Demand from automobile producers was still in abeyance, the Ford sales campaign continuing to be delayed, although dealers were called to Detroit to view the new model. Mr Myron Taylor has been elected chairman of the United States Steel Corporation in succession to Mr J. P. Morgan, who assumed the position temporarily on the death of Judge Gary. Freight car loadings for the week ended March 19th were 584,698, against 575,545 in the previous week, 741,942 in the corresponding week of 1931 and an average of 959,904 for the same week in the seven years 1924-30.

	Mar. 17, 1932.	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
Natl. Biscuit	43½	40½	37½
Phelps Dodge	6½	5½	5½
Pullman	20½	18½	17½
Sears-Roebuck	31½	30½	28½
Studebaker	9½	8½	7½
Un. Fruit	25½	23½	22½
U.S. Leather	2½	2	2
U.S. Rubber	4½	4½	4
U.S. Steel	43½	41½	39
Westinghouse	28½	27	23½
Woolworth	42½	41½	40½
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	123½	115½	110½
Interboro R.T.	13½	11	8½
Int. Tel. Teleg.	9	7½	6½
Radio Corpn.	7½	7	6
Utilities P. & L. A	5½	4½	3½
W. Union Tlg.	42	38½	35
Associated Gas "A"	2½	2½	2½
Pan. Amer. B.	16	17	16x
Shell	6	13	12
Shell Union	3½	3½	3½
Sinclair Oil	6	6½	5½
Std. California	25½	25½	24½
Do. N.J.	29½	29½	28½

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York, and 18, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American values calculated on closing prices (1926 = 100):—

	1930.		1931.		1932.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Mar. 23.	Mar. 30.
	93·1	134·1	51·4	114·7	53·2	51·7	50·6
	89·1	146·6	31·7	105·7	33·2	30·2	29·0
	149·2	207·4	90·6	187·6	91·8	89·4	88·2
	108·6	134·2	54·7	124·6	56·5	54·5	53·2
	6·12%	5·08%	9·37%	5·11%	9·29%	7·56%	7·73%

Daily Averages of 50 American Common Stocks (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1931	Lowest of 1931	Mar. 16, 1932.	Mar. 17, 1932.	Mar. 18, 1932.	Mar. 19, 1932.	Mar. 21, 1932.	Mar. 22, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.
84	69·4	62·3	61·3	61·5	61·0	61·7	61·6	60·8

Highest of 1931	Lowest of 1931	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 25, 1932.	Mar. 26, 1932.	Mar. 28, 1932.	Mar. 29, 1932.	Mar. 30, 1932.
94	62·4	60·0	*	59·1	57·8	57·9	59·4

* Stock Exchange closed.

Stock Exchange in New York.

	Mar. 17, 1932.	Mar. 18, 1932.	Mar. 19, 1932.	Mar. 21, 1932.	Mar. 22, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.
	1,400	1,400	900	900	900	800
	6,600	7,600	3,883	7,764	8,690	9,886
	200	200	100	190	190	170

	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 25, 1932.	Mar. 26, 1932.	Mar. 28, 1932.	Mar. 29, 1932.	Mar. 30, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
	1,300	1,300	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500
	11,510	10,086	9,05				
	200	200	160	240			

* Shares unsold.

CANADA.

Though the Canadian markets have had spasmodic bursts of liveliness, their tone has remained uncertain and the volume of business meagre. The strength of Canadian Pacific Railway has been associated with rumours of pending recommendations by the Special Commission on Transportation calculated to improve the outlook for common dividends. Newsprint stocks are still out of favour. Most distillery companies have been compelled to pass or reduce their dividends. The majority of brokerage and investment houses have been making ends meet by the business arising out of numerous public offerings by the Federal Government, provincial administrations and municipalities, practically all of which have been oversubscribed, though the high rate of interest offered has aroused disquietude in some cases. Provincial bonds, for example, have been offered to yield practically 6½ per cent. The "Investors Index" of the Bureau of Statistics for the three main groups of common stocks in the middle of March was 62.9, as against 61.5, 60.0, and 60.3 for the three previous weeks, respectively.

	Jan. 20, 1932.	Mar. 9, 1932.	Mar. 30, 1932.
Abitibi Power and Paper	2½	3	2
Brazilian Traction	13½	14½	11½
Canadian Car	7	6½	6½
Canada Cement	6½	6½	5½
Can. Indus. Alcohol 'A'	1½	1	½
Canada Power and Paper	...	½	½
Cockshutt Plow	5½	5½	5
Fraser Companies	1	1½	½
Hollinger Gold Mining	5½	5½	5
International Nickel	9½	9½	8½
Massey Harris	3½	3½	3½
Steel of Canada	22	22½	22
Winnipeg Electric	6½	5½	4

PARIS.

Nervousness increased last week-end, and the volume of transactions was greatly reduced. The interim report of the Kreuger and Toll Committee was unfavourably received. Kreuger and Toll shares lost a third of their value in a single day, and it was deemed necessary to apply a quota system to offers of stock. The atmosphere became slightly more favourable in mid-week, and on Thursday, after a brisk session, substantial improvements were recorded in most departments.

	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 29, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
Banque de France	13,350	13,160	13,490
Crédit Lyonnais	2,100	2,005x	2,120
Suez Canal	14,675	14,650	14,850
Chargeurs Réunis	270	258	261
Rio Tinto	1,290	1,248	1,305
Royal Dutch	13,000	13,075	14,000
Wagons Lits	114	113	116
Mexican Eagle	35	34	36
"Chartered"	87	87	89
Ford	124	120	127
De Beers	322	316	323
"Johnnies"	101	97	101

BERLIN.

A reaction occurred under the influence of the Kreuger Committee's statement, the shares of the group revealing marked weakness. Most of the leading home issues were simultaneously on offer. A mild recovery, however, took place on Wednesday. The German Bourses will reopen on April 12th for the transaction of business (including the marking of "Official" quotations) on the lines prevailing before September 18, 1931. Comparative "unofficial" quotations are given in the table below:—

	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 29, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
Reichsbank	104½	103	105
Disconto	45	45	45
Dresdner	28	26½	26½
Norddeutscher Lloyd	16	16½	15
Dye Trust	92	90	91½
A. E. G.	28	27½	27½
Siemens & Halske	109	108	108½
German Petroleum	56	56	54½
A. K. U.	48	44½	...
Svenska Tandsticks	33	28	24

AMSTERDAM.

Listless conditions prevailed, dealers and public alike being disposed to await some clarification of the international situation before undertaking fresh commitments. The Kreuger issues fell sharply. Among home securities, Philips Lamps and A.K.U. were weak, and Unilever reacted. Rubber shares were idle, and Amsterdam Trading lacked support.

	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 29, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
5½% German	34	33½	36½
Unilever N.V.	111	110	110½
Philips' Lamps	70½	69½	68
Netherlands Ship Union	56	56½	56½
Java Cultuur	138	135	130
Steel Common	43½	41½	42½
A. K. U.	39½	38½	38½
Ford Motor	124½	127½	106
Deli Batavia	127	125	123
Royal Dutch	132½	127	174½

(Continued on page 746.)

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITY PRICES AND YIELDS.

Note.—*Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest, are distinguished by italics.*

In calculating yields on the stocks and shares quoted below allowance is made for interest accrued since the last payment. Where stocks are definitely redeemable at a certain date the yield includes any profit or loss on redemption; where stocks are redeemable at or before a certain date the final date of repayment is taken when the stock stands at a discount and the earliest date when the quotation is above par. The return on ordinary stocks and shares is calculated on the dividends paid by the company during the last year.

Prices Year 1931. Highest.	Lowest.	Prices Year 1932 (Jan. 1 to Mar. 30) inclusive. Highest.	Lowest.	Name of Security.	Price Mar. 16, 1932.	Price Mar. 30, 1932.	Rise or Fall.	Present Yield. £ s. d.
				British Funds.				
60 11/16	49¼	60⅞	54¼	Consols 2½%	59¼	60¼	+1	4 2 8
97	77¾	95	81¾	Consols 4%	93¾	94¾	+¾	4 5 10
85¼	67¾	84¼	73¼	Con. Loan 3½%	82¾	84¼	+1½	4 3 4
104¾	88¾	103¼	93	Do. 4½% 1940–44	102¼	102¾	+½	4 7 0
108¾	93¼	108 1/16	99	Do. 5% 1944–64	106¾	106x	+1⅞	4 6 10
97¾	78	98¼	83¾	*Funding* 4% 1960–90	95¾	96¾x	+3	4 3 0
102¾	93	101	97 1/16	Treasury 4½% 1932–34	100¾	100¾	...	4 3 3
103¾	93	102	98¼	Treasury 5% 1933–35	101¼	101⅜	+ ⅛	4 6 0
98¾	85	97¾	89¼	Victory Bonds 4%	96¾	97¾	+1	4 2 0
104¾	90½	102¾	95¼	*War Loan* 5% 1929–47	101¾	102¾	+¾	5 0 0
70¼	57	69¾	60¼	Local Loans 3%	68¾	69¾	+1	4 6 0
46	29½	49¾	36	India 2½%	48	49	+1	5 2 0
55¼	34	59¾	42¼	Do. 3%	58	58	...	5 3 5
64¾	41	69¾	49¾	Do. 3½%	66½	67	+ ½	5 4 9
86 1/16	55	92¼	67¾	Do. 4½% 1958–68	89½	91	+1½	5 3 7
106¼	94	107¾	97¼	Palestine 5% 42–67	106	107	+1	4 8 0
110	90	110¼	103¼	Sudan 5½% Bonds	109	110	+1	5 3 0
99⅞	87½	96¼	87¾	Ulster 4½% 45–75	95	95	...	4 17 10
				Dom. & Colonial Govts.				
85¼	58	93	77	Australia 5% 1945–75	87½	91½	+4	5 11 0
96¾	75	93½	82	Canada 4% 1940–60	88½	92½	+4	4 9 9
105¾	97	106½	100¼	Ceylon 6% 1936–51	105	106	+1	5 3 0
101	87½	99	91¾	Gold Coast 4½% 1956	97	99	+2	4 12 10
105¼	90	104	94¼	Kenya 5% 1948–58	102	104	+2	4 17 0
104¾	92	104	93¼	Nigeria 5% 1950–60	102	104	+2	4 15 0
80	46½	79¼	65¼	N.S. Wales 5% 35–55	76½	76½	...	7 2 0
102⅞	85	100¼	84	N. Zealand 5% 1946	99	99	...	5 3 0
81	48	87¼	70	Queensland 5% 40–60	83¾	86¼	+3	6 0 0
105	82	101¼	90¼	S. Africa 5% 1945–75	100⅛	100⅛	...	5 0 0
100	85½	98¼	88¾	Strts. Sett. 4½% 35–45	98	99	+1	4 17 0
				Foreign Governments.				
88	53	77	72⅞	Argentine 4% Reciss.	74	75	+1	6 19 8
105¼	87	100½	88	Austrian 6% 1923–43	99	98	−1	6 5 2
98¾	33½	49¾	36	Do. 7% Int. red. by 1957	45	48	+3	14 11 9
56	29½	41⅞	32¼	B. Aires (Prov.) 3½%	39½	38	−1½	9 4 3
112¼	89	108¼	94	Belgian 7% red. by 1956	107½	108	+ ½	6 10 0
83¾	36	38	30	Bulgaria 7½% Loan	32¾	33½	+1	23 1 9
75¾	43	69	57¾	Brazil 5% Fund, 1914	66¾	67¾	+1	7 10 0
79	28	46	34¾	Do. 6½% (1927)	45	46	+1	...
94	20	30	24	Chili 6% (1929)	25	23	−2	...
52⅞	33	43½	31	China 5% (1912)	38½	40x	+4	12 10 0
70¼	55	63	52	Do. 5% (1913)	60	63	+3	8 13 3
113¼	78	103⅞	77⅞	Czechoslovakia 8%	102	103½	+1½	7 16 0
86¾	70	83¾	70	Danish 3%	70	70	...	4 6 9
87¼	58	65	59½	Danzig 6½%	63	63	...	10 5 0
85	66½	87⅞	79½	Egypt Unified 4%	84½	84½	...	4 17 0
76	35	50	45	Estonia 7% 1927	45	45	...	15 11 3
92¾	70	65	60	Finland 6% 1923	65	65	...	9 17 5
31¾	20½	28	24 1/16	French 4% (British)	25½x	24⅞	− ⅝	4 3 6
30¾	20¾	29 11/16	26¾	Do. 5%	27¼	26¾	− ½	5 2 0
106	53	79	56¼	German 7%	69	70	+1	10 0 0
81¼	37¾	57¼	45¼	Do. 5½% Stg. Bds. 1930	53½	50	−3½	11 0 0
93¾	59¾	66	34	Greek 6% Stab. Ln.	44¾	40	−4¾	15 0 0
104¼	73	81½	55	Do. 7% Refugee	64½	60½	− 4	11 11 9
103 13/16	42	70	50½	Hungary 7½%	54	54	...	13 15 3
111	83	100¼	82	Japanese 5½% 1935–65	87½	86½	−1	6 10 6
105⅞	77½	93¾	76 1/16	Do. 6% (1924)	81	79	−2	7 18 6
14¾	5	10½	7	Mexican 5% (1899)	9½	9½	...	...
98	78	90	78½	Norwegian 4% 1911	88¼	88¼	...	4 12 0
83	40	55	45	Peru 7½% 1922	55	50	− 5	15 0 0
86½	54	78	66½	Poland 7%	78	78	...	9 6 9
104¾	92	103	90¼	Siamese 6% 1934–64	102½	103	+½	6 0 0
89	75	79	75	Swedish 3½% 1908	78	75	−3	4 12 0
76¼	39	67	57	S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	66	62½	−3½	12 0 0
10¼	4	8	5	Turkish 4% Unified	7	6	−1	...
80	45	50	46½	Uruguay 5% 1919	50	50	...	10 8 3
				Corporation Stocks.				
84¼	24½	46½	27¼	Berlin 6% 1932–57	41½	41½	...	14 9 3
107¾	94	105	98¼	B'mgham 5% 1946–56	103	105	+2	4 10 2
107¾	96	104½	99¾	Bristol 5% 1948–58	102	103	+1	4 14 6
95¼	65	70	66	Danzig 7%	70	70	...	10 0 0
101	93½	96½	90	E. London 5% 1960–70	94½	94½	...	5 8 0
105	97½	101½	96	Johannbg 5½% 1937–52	99½	100½	+1	5 9 0
71	57	69⅞	59½	L.C.C. 3%	69	69	...	4 6 11
73	57½	71	60⅞	Met. Wat. Bd. B 3%	70	71	+1	4 5 0
107	94	106¼	97	Pt. of Ldn. 5% 1950–70	104¼	104¼	...	4 14 0
112⅞	87	106½	98½	Seine 7% 1935–52	106⅛	106⅛	...	5 2 0
77	52	72	68	Sydney 5½% 1954	70	70	...	8 2 0
				British Railways.				
69¼	38	48¾	39½	G. Western Ord. Stk.	45	43½	−1½	6 18 0
8¾	2½	6¾	3½	L. & N.E'st'n Def. Stk.	5½	4¾	− ¾	Nil
19¼	6¼	14½	7⅞	Do. 5% Pref. Ord.	10¾	9¾	−1	Nil
84¾	55¾	65	57	Do. 5% Pref. 1955	58¾x	58¾x	...	9 8 0
44¾	16½	33¾	17	Do. 4% 2nd Pref. Stk.	21¾x	21¾x	...	4 13 0
34	13	20¾	15	L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	19	18	−1	1 7 0
56⅞	25½	38¾	30¾	4% Pref. Stk. 1923	37¾	36¾	−1	10 19 3
68¼	34	40	33¾	Metropolitan Cons.	34¾	34¾	...	7 5 0
77¾	57½	59	52¾	Met. Dist. Ord. Stk.	53¾	53¾	...	8 8 3
23⅞	9¾	11½	8¼	Southern Def. Stk.	10¾	10¾	...	Nil
66¾	36	40¾	33¾	Do. 5% Pref. Ord. Stk.	37¾x	36¾x	−1	10 19 3
92¼	55½	67⅞	62	Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	65¾x	64¾x	−1	7 15 3
24/10½	17/3	20/−	17/11½	*Underground Ord.* £1	19/−	19/−	...	7 7 0
				Dom. & Foreign Rys.				
51½	15½	16½	12	Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	14	13¾	− ¼	28 15 0
53	21	26	19	B.A. & Pacific Ord. Stk.	21	19¾	−1¼	Nil
71½	27	41¾	34	B.A. Gr. Sthn. Ord. Stk.	37½	35	−2½	8 17 2
55	21½	31¾	25½	B.A. Western Ord. Stk.	28	26	−2	Nil
65	29	42¾	35	C. Argentine Ord. Stk.	38	35½	−2½	8 16 3
73	14	17¾	11	C. Uruguay Monte V.	11½	11½	...	Nil
46¾	15½	28¾	16¼	*Can. Pacific Com.* ($25)	24	19	−5	6 11 0
71¾	63¾	70¾	64¾	Can. Nat. 1927 Guar. 4%	70½	70½	...	5 15 0
16	4	5½	2¾	Cordoba Ord. Stk.	3¾	3¾	...	Nil
29½	11	11¾	7	Do. 7% 1st Pref. Stk.	7	7	...	Nil
22¾	5	8¾	3	Do. 6% 2nd Pref. Stk.	4½	4	− ½	Nil
39	23	32	20	Costa Rica Ord. Stk.	21	21¾	+ ¾	9 10 8
70⅞	32	40	23	Entre Rios Ord. Stk.	25½	23½	−2	6 17 8
90	56½	62	45	6% Cum. Pref. Stk.	56	47½	−8½	12 12 3
68¾	43¾	40½	35	Do. 4% 2nd Pref. Stk.	31½	27½	−4	14 11 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	G.W. of Brazil £10	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	24½	In. Ry. C. Am. No par	25	25	...	...
[illegible]	11	16⅞	13½	Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	15	14	−1	Nil
[illegible]	19	28	20	Do. 5½% Cum. Pr. Stk.	25	26½	+1½	Nil
[illegible]	18/−	25/−	20/−	Nitrate Rlys. (£10)	25/−	20/−	−5/−	20 0 0

Prices Year 1931. Highest.	Lowest.	Prices Year 1932 (Jan. 1 to Mar. 30) inclusive. Highest.	Lowest.	Name of Security.	Price Mar. 16, 1932.	Price Mar. 30, 1932.	Rise or Fall.	Present Yield. £ s. d.
				Foreign Rys.—cont.				
21	8	8	6½	Paraguay Cen. D. Db.	7	7	[illegible]	[illegible]
70/−	70/−	70/−	70/−	Salvador Ord. ($10)	70/−	70/−	—	[illegible]
150	94⅞	106½	94	San Paulo Ord. Stk.	98½	106½	+8	[illegible]
65/−	20/−	25/−	20/−	Taltal Rly. Ord. £5	25/−	25/−	—	[illegible]
9½	2⅞	4½	2⅞	Utd. Havana Ord. St.	3½	3½	—	[illegible]
				Banks.				
16/9	5/9	6/6	4/−	Anglo-French (£1)	5/3	5/9	[illegible]	[illegible]
11/6	8/9	9/3	8/9	Anglo Internatl. (£1)	9/−	9/−	—	[illegible]
6 1/16	1⅞	37/6	11/3	Anglo S. American A £10 £5 pd	1⅞	1½	—	[illegible]
25/6	12/6	15/−	8/−	Anglo S. American B £1 fy pd.	13/6	10/−	[illegible]	[illegible]
55/9	31/3	50/−	44/4½	Bank of N. Zealand £1	47/6	47/6	—	[illegible]
278½	230	276	235	Bank of Eng. Stk.	275	276x	...	[illegible]
58/3	43/9	56/9	47/6	Barclay B. (£1)	55/−	56/6	[illegible]	[illegible]
26/4½	19/9	25/−	21/6	Barcl. (Dom. &c.) A £1	24/6	25/−	[illegible]	[illegible]
9⅞	6 1/16	8⅞	7⅞	Bk. of Australasia (£5)	7⅞x	8x	+ ⅛	[illegible]
63	47	53	44	Bk. of Montreal ($100)	$51	[illegible]	−1	[illegible]
26	18⅞	23⅞	21	Bk. of N.S.W. (£20)	21½	21½	—	[illegible]
5 11/16	3¾	4⅞	3¾	British Overseas A £5	4¾	4¾	—	[illegible]
17¾	9¾	14	9¾	Chtd. of India (£5)	13	12	−1	[illegible]
14/9	9/7½	14/−	11/3	Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/−	12/6	12/6	—	[illegible]
66/6⅞	43/3	55/−	45/−	District A £5, £1 pd.	53/9	53/9	—	[illegible]
42/6	38/−	40/−	36/6⅞	Do. B £1 fully paid	38/9	38/9	—	[illegible]
4⅞	2⅞	87/6	80/−	Eng.Scot.&Aust.£5,£3pd	4½	4½	—	[illegible]
8 11/16	6	5½	5½	Hambros £10, £2½ paid	5½	5½	—	[illegible]
113½	93	105	92	Hong. and S. ($125)	£103	£104	+£1	[illegible]
63/9	38/−	52/−	41/9	Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	50/−	51/−	+1/−	[illegible]
7 1/16	4⅞	5 11/16	4½	Martins £20, £2½ pd.	5⅞	6	[illegible]	[illegible]
80/6	60/6	69/3	62/7½	Midland £1, fully pd.	67/6	68/9	[illegible]	[illegible]
31½	19	29½	21⅞	Nat. of Egypt £10	27	25½	[illegible]	[illegible]
43½	27½	38⅞	28	Nat. of India £25, £12½ pd	£35	£38	+3	[illegible]
14⅞	9	12⅞	9 11/16	Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	[illegible]	12½	[illegible]	[illegible]
357	295	352	310	Royal Bk. of Scotland	£340	£350	+£10	[illegible]
14⅞	9½	10⅞	8⅞	St. of S. Af. £20, £5 pd.	10⅞	10½	[illegible]	[illegible]
80/10½	47/6	70/9	56/7½	Westminster £4, £1 pd.	67/6	70/−	[illegible]	[illegible]
				Insurance.				
21	16	20¾	16½	Alliance £1, fully pd.	20	20¾	[illegible]	[illegible]
13½	9	11⅞	9⅞	Atlas £5, £1¼ pd.	11¼	11⅞	[illegible]	[illegible]
24½	16½	20 11/16	17	Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	20	20¾	[illegible]	[illegible]
15¾	11	14 1/16	11	Gen. Accident £5, £1¼ pd	14	14½	[illegible]	[illegible]
28¾	19¾	26½	20	Lon. & Lanc. £5, £2 pd	26	26	[illegible]	[illegible]
34 11/16	25½	33½	26	N.Brit.& Mer £5, £1¼ pd	32	31½	[illegible]	[illegible]
16 1/16	12⅞	15⅞	12¼	Northern £10, £1 pd.	15	15⅞	[illegible]	[illegible]
13½	9¾	12¾	9⅞	Pearl (£1), fully paid	12	12½	[illegible]	[illegible]
14½	9 1/16	13 11/16	10	Phoenix £1, fully pd.	13	13½	[illegible]	[illegible]
24½	17⅞	22½	18	Prudential £1 A	22	22	[illegible]	[illegible]
40/−	28/9	40/−	30/−	Do. £1, with 4s. paid	38/9	38/9	[illegible]	[illegible]
6 1/16	4⅞	6	4⅞	Royal Exchange (£1)	5⅞	6	[illegible]	[illegible]
6 1/16	6⅞	7½	6 1/16	Royal £1, 10s. paid	7⅛	7⅞	[illegible]	[illegible]
3 11/16	3 1/16	3 5/16	3	Sea Insur., £1 fully pd.	3⅛	3⅛	[illegible]	[illegible]
3 11/16	2 11/16	3⅞	2 11/16	Sun Insur., £1 with 5/− pd	3⅛	3⅜	[illegible]	[illegible]
5⅞	4⅞	5½	4 1/16	Sun Life Assur., £1 fy pd	4⅞	5⅛	[illegible]	[illegible]
14⅞	11⅞	13	11½	Yorkshire £1, fully pd.	12½	13	[illegible]	[illegible]
				Investment Trusts.				
293	229	240	215	Anglo-American Deb.	235	235	—	[illegible]
149	85	95	85	Anglo-Celtic Ord.	90½	90½	—	[illegible]
21/6	10/−	14/−	10/−	*Atlas Electric, &c.*, £1	13/9	12/6	−1/3	[illegible]
28/9	17/9	22/3	17/6	Brit. Assets Trust 5/−	21/3	21/3	—	[illegible]
185	156	154	147½	Debenture Corp. Stk.	152½	152½	—	[illegible]
171	125½	125	100	For. Amer., &c., Def.	120	120	—	[illegible]
110½	70½	70½	70½	Grange Trust	70½	70½	—	[illegible]
186	155	158⅞	154⅞	Guardian Investment	154½	154½	—	[illegible]
327	230½	247	198	Indus. & Gen. Ord.	221	245	+24	[illegible]
427	335	335	298	Invest. Trust Ord.	333	333	—	[illegible]
22/−	15/−	17/10½	12/6	Lake View Invest. 10/−	13/9	17/−	+3/3	[illegible]
318	236	245½	200	Mercantile Investment	208x	208x	—	[illegible]
235	210	200	177	Merchants Trust Ord.	185x	195x	+10	[illegible]
380	313	316	296	Metropolitan Trust	307	313	+6	[illegible]
92	50	50½	46½	Nineteen Twenty-eight	46½	46½	—	[illegible]
88	47½	42½	42½	Nineteen Twenty-nine	42½	42½	—	[illegible]
18/3	10/−	10/9	10/−	Scottish Investment (5/−)	10/−	10/−	—	[illegible]
225½	185½	179½	179½	Scottish Mortgage, &c.	179½	179½	—	[illegible]
104⅞	50	55	55	Stockholders Invest.	55	55	—	[illegible]
87½	67	67½	67½	Trans-Oceanic £1	67½	67½	—	[illegible]
234	185	160	155	Trustees Corp. Ord.	155	155	—	[illegible]
243	185	188½	182	United States Deb.	182x	182x	—	[illegible]
				Financial Trusts, &c.				
29/−	15/−	18/9	17/3	Argentine Land, &c., £1	17/6	17/6	—	[illegible]
39½	10	25	20	Australian Estates, &c.	20	20	—	[illegible]
4/6	2/−	3/1½	2/3	Brit. Nth. Borneo £1	2/6	2/6	—	[illegible]
28/6	14/−	24/6	16/−	Brit. S. Africa 15/− fy pd	20/6x	17/3x	−3/3	[illegible]
18/10½	5/−	15/−	10/7½	Charterhouse Inv. £1	13/9	15/−	+1/3	[illegible]
17/3	12/9	14/7½	13/1½	C. of London R. Pty. £1	13/9	13/9	—	[illegible]
6⅞	4	7½	6½	Dalgety £20, £5 pd.	6½	6½	—	[illegible]
13/10½	7/6	9/4½	6/6	Forestal Land £1	7/1½	7/1½	—	[illegible]
37/6	18/−	21/6	18/−	Hudson's Bay Co. £1	20/−	20/−	—	[illegible]
4	2½	3	2 1/16	Do. 5% Cum. Pref. £5	2⅞	3	[illegible]	[illegible]
20/−	7/6	11/1½	7/−	Java Invest., &c., £1	8/9	7/−	−1/9	[illegible]
4⅞	1½	3⅞	2½	Peruvian Corp. Ord. Stk.	3	3	—	[illegible]
23	8	13⅞	10	Peruvian Corp. Pref. Stk.	12	10	−2	[illegible]
24/3	12/9	17/−	13/6	*Primitiva Holdgs.* £1	15/6	15/6	—	[illegible]
13/9	9/9	11/3	10/−	Staveley Trust £1	11/3	11/3	—	[illegible]
38/1½	14/6	29/4½	21/3	Sudan Plantations £1	28/1½	25/−	−3/1½	[illegible]
				Breweries, &c.				
23/9	17/9	23/4½	18/9	Allsopps Ord. £1	22/−	21/9	[illegible]	[illegible]
27/9	18/−	22/9	17/10½	Barclay Perkins £1	22/6	22/6	—	[illegible]
62/−	46/−	57/−	44/9	Bass Ratcliff Ord. £1	56/6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
37/6	25/−	31/3	24/3	Benskins Watford £1	28/6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
12/−	5/3	8/3	5/1½	City of Lond. Def. 5/−	7/3	7/3	—	[illegible]
61/3	39/6	47/−	36/6	Courage Ord. £1	45/−	47/3	[illegible]	[illegible]
61/−	42/3	50/6	42/9	*Distillers Co. Ord.* £1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
109/9	79/6	86/6	77/−	Guinness (A)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
62/3	44/−	53/6	43/−	Ind Coope Ord. £1	51/−	[illegible]	—	[illegible]
38/−	23/6	30/3	23/6	Meux's Ord. £1	27/−x	27/−x	—	[illegible]
53/−	39/−	46/7½	35/−	Mitchell & Butlers £1	44/−	[illegible]	+1/−	[illegible]
28/3	21/−	25/−	22/3	Ohlsson's Cape £1	24/−	[illegible]	—	[illegible]
62/−	49/3	50/6	45/−	S. African Brs. £1	50/−	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
36/6	25/6	30/6	23/7½	Taylor Walker Ord. £1	30/−	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
66/−	33/−	45/−	32/−	W'ney Combe Def. £1	41/−	43/−	[illegible]	[illegible]
				Coal, Iron and Steel.				
6/4½	3/−	4/0⅞	3/0⅞	Amal. Anthracite £1	3/3	3/3	[illegible]	[illegible]
14/7½	7/−	11/9	10/−	Do. 7% Cum. Pref. £1	11/3	11/3	—	[illegible]
10½d	3d	7½d	4d	Armstrong Whit. A 1/−	6d	6d	—	[illegible]
66/3	37/10½	47/6	42/9	*Babcock, Wilcox* £1	46/3	45/−	−1/3	[illegible]

† Free of Income Tax.

Prices Year 1931 Highest	Prices Year 1931 Lowest	Prices Year 1932 (Jan. 1 to Mar. 30) inclusive Highest	Lowest	Name of Security.	Price Mar. 16, 1932.	Price Mar. 30, 1932.	Rise or Fall.	Present Yield. £ s. d.
				Coal, &c.—cont.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Baldwins 4/-	3/-	2/6	−6d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Bengal Iron £1	3/1½	3/1½	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Beyer Peacock £1	12/6	12/6	...	13 16 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Bolsover Coll'ry Ord. £1	18/9	18/9	...	7 9 4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Brown (John) Ord. 5/-	1/6	1/6	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cammell Laird £1	6d	9d	+3d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Consett Iron £1	5/6	5/6	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cory, William, £1	67/6	67/1½	−4½d	6 1 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Dorman, Long £1	3/6	3/3	−3d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Do. 6% Non.Cm.Pf.O.£1	3/6	3/6	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Ebbw Vale Ord. £1	1/-	1/-	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Do. 7% Cum. Pref. £1	1/-	1/-	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Guest Keen, &c. £1	14/6	13/6	−1/-	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Hadfields £1	5/3	5/3	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Har. & Wil. 6% Cm. Pf.	2/6	2/3	−3d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Horden Collieries £1	17/6	17/6	...	5 15 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Lambert Bros., £1	23/9	22/6	−1/3	8 17 9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Millom & Askam £1	3/9	3/9	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Ocean Coal & Wilsons	8/9	8/1½	−7½d	9 10 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pease and Partners £1	1/9	1/9	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Powell Duffryn £1	5/-	4/9	−3d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	S. Durham Steel £1	21/3	21/3	...	3 16 3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Do. B Ord. £1	7/1½	7/1½	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Staveley Coal, &c. £1	27/6	27/6	...	4 6 0†
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Stewarts & Lloyds £1	13/1½	12/6	−7½d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Swan, Hunter £1	14/3	15/-	+9d	6 13 3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Thomas (Richard) £1	1/9	1/9	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6½%Cm.Tax free Pf. £1	7/3	7/3	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Thornycroft, John, £1	12/6	12/6	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*U. States Steel* $100	$62½	$54½	−$8	7 16 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Vickers* 6/8	7/6	7/3	−3d	4 8 8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Weardale Steel &c. Df. £1	18/1½	18/1½	...	6 13 0
				Textiles.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	B. Ctn. & Wool Ds. 5s.	3/9	3/6	−3d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Bleachers £1	13/9	13/1½	−7½d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Bradford Dyers* (£1)	20/-	20/-	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Brit. Celanese Ord.* (10/-)	8/6	7/7½	−10½d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Do. 7% 1st Cm. Pf. £1	8/6	8/3	−3d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Do. 7½% 2nd Cm. Pf. £1	6/6	6/3	−3d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Calico Printers £1	9/4½	9/4½	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Coats, J. and P.* (£1)	43/1½	42/-	−1/1½	4 14 6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Courtaulds* £1	34/1½x	33/-x	−1/1½	3 0 6†
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	English Sew. Ctn. £1	28/9	28/9	...	6 19 3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	English Velvet, &c., £1	13/1½	13/1½	...	5 11 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Fine Cotton Spinners £1	17/6	16/3	−1/3	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Linen Thread (£1)	23/9	22/6	−1/3	6 6 9†
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Listers (£1)	15/-	15/-	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Patons & Baldwins £1	28/9	28/9	...	1 14 9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Snia Viscosa Lire 200	...	2⅝x	...	(Div. 6%)
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Whitworth & Mitchell £1	51/3	51/3	...	8 16 0
				Electrical Manufactg.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Associated Elec.* (£1)	22/6	22/-	−6d	5 8 6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	British Insulated (£1)	59/3	60/-	+9d	5 0 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Callenders (£1)	58/1½	58/1½	...	5 2 6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Crompton Parkinson 5/-	18/9	18/9	...	8 0 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	English Electric £1	10/-	10/-	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*General Electric* (£1)	42/6	41/3	−1/3	4 17 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	5⅝	5½	−⅛	5 12 6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Johnson & Phillips* £1	22/6	20/-	−2/6	10 0 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Siemens £1	23/9	23/9	...	6 6 3
				Electric Light, &c.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Brazil Trac., no par	$16⅞	$14	−$2⅞	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Bournemouth & Poole	61/-	62/-	+1/-	4 18 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Calcutta Electric £1	41/3	40/-	−1/3	7 0 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Charing Cross Elec. £1	31/-	31/-	...	5 8 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	City of London £1	37/-	38/9	+1/9	5 3 3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Clyde Valley Elec. £1	30/-	30/-	...	4 13 3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	County of London £1	44/3	45/-	+9d	4 13 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Hydro-Elec. Con. Stk.*	$14	$10	−$4	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Lancashire Electric £1	24/3	27/-	+2/9	5 4 4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Metro. Electric £1	40/7½x	41/3x	+7½d	4 17 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Midland Counties £1	28/9x	28/9x	...	4 17 6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Newcastle-on-Tyne* £1	24/3	24/3	...	4 18 6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	North Metropolitan £1	45/-	45/-	...	4 9 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Scottish Power £1	28/9	29/3	+6d	5 8 6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Yorkshire Electric £1	33/9	33/9	...	4 14 9
				Gas.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Gas Light & Coke* £1	20/3	20/6	+3d	5 11 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Imp. Continental Stk.	370	370	...	5 8 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Newc.-on-Tyne £1	16/3	17/3	+1/-	6 3 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	S. Metropolitan Stk.	102½	103½	+1	5 15 0
				Telegraphs, &c.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cables and Wireless *A Ord. Stk.*	19½	18	−1½	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cables and Wireless *B Ord. Stk.*	12	10½	−1½	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cables and Wireless *5½% Cu. Pref.*	50½	49½	−1	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Great Northern $10	24	23	−1	8 15 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*International Telephone*	$13	$9½	−$3½	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Marconi Marine* £1	30/-	30/-	...	6 13 3
				Motors and Cycles.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Austin 5/-	27/6	27/6	...	18 4 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Birm. Smal. Arms £1	6/3	6/3	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] 1/-	18/9	18/9	...	9 6 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Ford Motors* £1	27/-	23/9	−3/3	8 8 5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Guy Motors (10/-)	3/-	2/-	−1/-	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Lucas (J.) £1	62/6	62/6	...	6 8 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Leyland £1	38/3	38/3	...	5 10 3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Morris 7½% Cum. Pref. £1	23/3x	23/6x	+3d	6 10 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] 1/-	5/-	5/-	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rolls-Royce £1	33/9	35/-	+1/3	5 14 3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Singer £1	7/6	7/6	...	Nil
				Shipping.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cunard £1	7/-	6/-	−1/-	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Furness Withy £1	21/-	19/6	−1/6	7 15 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	P. & O. Defd. £1	22/6	20/-	−2/6	6 0 0†
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	6½	4½	−2	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	7½	3½	−4	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	White Star 5½% Pref.	3/-	3/-	...	Nil
				Tea and Rubber.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Allied Sumatra £1	6/3	5/-	−1/3	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Anglo-Dutch £1	8/6	7/6	−1/-	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Assam Co. £1	16/3	15/7½	−7½d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] £1	6/3	5/-	−1/3	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cons. Tea & Lands £10	8½	7	−1½	3 12 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] (Ceylon) £1	4/3	3/9	−6d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Tea £1	27/6	26/3	−1/3	7 12 6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Tea £1	35/-	33/9	−1/3	5 18 6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] (Assam) £1	30/-	28/9	−1/3	3 15 9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Plantations £1	5/7½	5/-	−7½d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] 2/-	1/4½	1/3	−1½d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Rubber £1	11/3	7/6	−3/9	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] £1	12/6	10/9	−1/9	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] 2/-	1/4½	1/3	−1½d	Nil

Prices Year 1931 Highest	Prices Year 1931 Lowest	Prices Year 1932 (Jan. 1 to Mar. 30) inclusive Highest	Lowest	Name of Security.	Price Mar. 16, 1932.	Price Mar. 30, 1932.	Rise or Fall.	Present Yield. £ s. d.
				Oil.				
11/7½	5/1½	7/1½	5/4½	Anglo-Ecuadorian £1	6/6	6/-	−6d	Nil
48/6	20/-	28/9	20/3	Anglo-Egyptian B £1	26/3	25/-	−1/3	14 0 0
66/10½	26/10½	42/2½	29/4½	*Anglo-Persian* £1	38/9	36/3	−2/6	8 5 6
12/6	5/6	11/3	9/9	Apex (Trinidad) 5/-	10/6	10/6	...	10 0 0
20/-	9/6	14/6	8/3	Attock £1	12/6	12/6	...	Nil
2/9	11½d	1/7½	1/1½	Brit.Cont.Oils(V.T.Cts)	1/4½	1/1½	−3d	Nil
72/6	30/9	46/10½	33/9	Burmah Oil £1	45/-	42/6	−2/6	10 10 0
9/3	4/7½	8/0¾	4/9	*Canadian Eagle, no par*	7/3	6/4½	−10½d	...
3/2½	1/1½	2/6¾	1/7½	Kern River Oil 10/-	1/9	1/9	...	Nil
30/-	12/6	27/2½	16/3	Lobitos Oilfields £1	25/-	23/9	−1/3	8 8 6
10/9	5/6½	8/6	5/8½	*Mexican Eagle* ($1/0/6)	7/6	6/7½	−10½d	...
8/-	3/6	4/8½	3/7½	Phoenix Oil £1	4/7½	4/3	−4½d	22 8 0
26⅝	9⅝	20⅛	12¼	*Royal Dutch* (£8⅓)	17½	14	−3½	10 0 0
76/3	26/3	50/7½	33/1½	*Shell* £1	43/9	37/6	−6/3	9 6 0†
30/1½	10/-	28/5½	21/9	*Trinidad Leaseholds* £1	25/7½	24/3	−1/4½	4 2 0
35/11½	15/6	27/2½	16/3	V.O.C. Ord. £1	23/9	22/6	−1/3	15 9 0
				Miscellaneous.				
20/6	16/7½	21/3	18/-	Aerated Bread £1	20/-	20/7½	+7½d	4 17 0
33/3	15/-	16/9	15/-	Agar Cross £1	16/3	16/3	...	Nil
17/9	7/3	14/-	7/3	*Allied Newspapers* £1	11/10½	11/3	−7½d	4 9 0
3/9	2/3	3/7½	2/4½	Amal. Dental Def. 5/-	3/6	3/6	...	7 2 9
20/-	11/-	13/6	10/6	Amal. Press (10/-)	12/6	12/6	...	12 0 0
38/6	21/3	28/1½	20/7½	Army & Navy 10/-	27/6	27/6	...	8 4 0
20/9	9/9	18/-	9/4½	Assocd. Newsprs. Df. 5/-	16/3	17/6	+1/3	11 8 0
27/6	18/6	27/-	24/4½	*Assoc. P. Cement* £1	25/6	26/-	+6d	5 16 0
65/-	52/6	66/9	53/1½	Barker (John) £1	65/-	65/-	...	6 3 0
43/1½	23/1½	31/6	25/-	Barry & Staines Lino.	31/3	31/3	...	4 16 0
14/3	7/-	11/6	7/6	Borax Deferred £1	10/9	10/-	−9d	Nil
37/6	29/4½	33/3	24/-	*Bovril Deferred* £1	27/-	27/6	+6d	7 6 9
31/3	18/9	29/3	21/10½	British Aluminium £1	25/-	27/-	+2/-	3 15 0
26/-	20/3	25/9	20/6	British Match £1	25/-	25/-	...	4 16 0†
105/-	65/7½	82/6	73/9	*Brit.-Am. Tobacco* £1	81/3x	80/-x	−1/3	5 0 0†
24/6	9/6	11/6	9/-	Carlton Hotel £1	10/-	10/-	...	6 0 0
6	2⅝	3⅛	2⅝	*Carreras "A" Ord.* £1	3⅛	3⅛	...	9 0 0
37/-	25/-	31/3	22/-	Chinese Eng'g £1	28/-	25/-	−3/-	2 0 0†
20/6	12/-	11/6	7/6	Crittall Manuftg. £1	10/-	8/9	−1/3	5 15 0
5/7½	1/6	2/1½	1/7½	*Debenhams Sec.* (5/-)	2/-	2/-	...	Nil
39/-	14/1½	15/2½	9/3	*Dunlop* £1	11/3	10/9	−6d	11 6 9
45/7½	17/1½	23/6	17/3	*Elec. & Musical Ind.* £1	19/3	18/-	−1/3	Nil
23/6	17/-	25/4½	20/6	*Ever Ready Co.* 5/-	24/3	24/3	...	7 0 0
71/3	40/6	50/-	41/6	Finlay (James) & Co. £1	47/6	50/-	+2/6	6 0 0
6/3	2/3	3/9	2/9	Frederick Hotels 7/6	3/9	3/9	...	Nil
14/6	7/4½	10/4½	8/9	Gaumont-Brit. (10/-)	9/-	9/3	+3d	6 13 3
73/9	25/6	41/9	31/3	Harrisons & Cros. Def.	32/6	32/6	...	7 13 3
15/3	6/3	8/9	7/6	Harrods (B.A.) 15/- Ord	8/1½	7/6	−7½d	Nil
59/9	42/6	54/3	45/-	*Harrods* £1	52/6x	52/6x	...	6 13 0
15/6	11/3	15/6	12/9	Home&ColonialStores4/-	15/3	15/6	+3d	6 10 0
17/1½	11/3	15/9	13/-	*Imperial Airways* £1	14/9	15/9	+1/-	3 17 9
21/3	8/7½	17/10½	13/9	*Imperial Chemical* {*Ord.* £1	17/6	16/9	−9d	5 10 9
7/-	2/6	5/3	4/-	*Imperial Chemical* {*Def.* (10/-)	4/9	4/9	...	Nil
95/11½	72/6	82/2½	74/0¾	*Imperial Tobacco* £1	82/-	80/7½	−1/4½	5 6 0†
$3⅜	$⅞	$1⅞	$1⅛	*International Holdings*	$1⅞	$1½	−$⅜	...
$20½	$9½	$13⅛	$10½	*Inter. Nickel of Can.*	$11⅜	$10½	−$1	...
22/-	18/10½	24/4½	20/9	International Tea 5/-	24/-	24/3	+3d	6 3 3
£27⅞	£5½	10½	½	*Kreuger & Toll* (kr. 100)	£1⅞	£½	−£1⅜	...
24/3	20/-	23/9	20/6	Lever Bros. {7% Cum. £1	23/-	23/-	...	6 0 0
23/7½	19/3	22/10½	20/-	Lever Bros. {8% Cm. "A" Pf. £1	22/6	22/9	+3d	7 2 3
52/-	34/7½	46/6	40/3	Do. 20% Cm. Prf. Od. (£1)	46/3	46/3	...	8 13 0
41/-	30/6	40/-	29/-	London Brick £1	31/3x	32/6x	+1/3	12 6 3
101/3	81/3	98/9	95/-	Lyons (J.) £1	97/6	97/6	...	4 12 6
34/3	24/1½	33/-	23/-	Manbre and Garton £1	31/-	31/-	...	8 17 6
95/7½	68/1½	106/3	89/4½	Marks and Spencer 10/-	105/-	105/-	...	2 17 0
4/8½	3/6	4/3	3/3¾	Maypole Dairy 2/-	4/-	4/-	...	7 10 0
6/6	1/6	4/3	2/5¼	Millars Timber £1	3/9	3/9	...	Nil
8/1½	2/-	4/9	3/3	Platt Brothers £1	3/6	3/3	−3d	Nil
38/-	20/3	26/-	20/9	*Pinchin Johnson* 10/-	23/9	25/-	+1/3	6 0 0
106½	60	83½	61½	{*Potash Syndicate of Germany*} *7% Gld.*	79½	75½	−4	9 5 6
102⅞	50	79½	57	{*Potash Syndicate of Germany*} *6½% Bds.*	76½	71	−5½	9 3 9
78/-	73/1½	78/9	74/6	Reckitt & Sons Ord. £1	78/-	78/-	...	4 9 0
24/4½	10/7½	13/9	11/0	Roneo £1	11/3	11/3	...	Nil
32/6	17/6	29/6	21/3	Salt Union £1	27/6	27/6	...	6 11 0
29/3	15/-	19/-	15/-	Savoy Hotel £1	17/6	17/-	−6d	11 9 0
33/9	17/9	21/3	18/9	Schweppes Def. £1	18/9	18/9	...	7 9 0
21/9	16/1½	18/6	17/7½	Sears (J.) Ord. 5/-	18/-	18/-	...	5 10 0†
27/-	21/6	24/4½	20/3	Slaters and Bodega £1	23/9	23/9	...	8 8 6
33/9	22/3	38/1½	32/-	Spillers Ord. £1	38/-	37/6	−6d	8 0 0
13½	4½	6⅜	1½	*Swed. Match, B.* (kr. 100)	£3½	£1⅞	−£1½	...
41/4½	31/3	45/-	38/9	Tate and Lyle £1	42/6	44/3	+1/9	6 0 0
117/6	48/9	59/4½	43/6	Tilling, Thos., £1	57/6	56/3	−1/3	7 0 0
28/-	18/9	24/3	21/9	Tube Investments £1	23/9	23/9	...	6 14 9
41/3	21/9	32/2½	22/6	Turner & Newall £1	30/-	27/6	−2/6	3 12 9
44/4½	20/7½	32/2½	24/8½	Unilever £1	30/9	28/9	−2/-	6 19 3
37/6	28/-	38/9	34/7½	United Dairies £1	38/-x	38/6x	+6d	5 12 0
16/3	5/1½	11/10½	7/7½	*United Molasses* £1	10/-	8/9	−1/3	Nil
15/3	6/3	12/6	8/6	Do. 6% Cum. Pref. £1	12/-	10/7½	+1/4½	Nil
82/6	70/-	74/9	70/-	Utd. Tob. (South) Ord £1	73/9	73/9	...	6 1 0†
9/1½	2/6	4/9	3/6	Vocalion Gram. (10)	4/-	3/6	−6d	Nil
34/4½	19/6	29/1½	24/-	Wallpaper Mfrs. Def. £1	27/6	27/6	...	7 6 9
6/1½	1/10½	2/6	1/10½	Waring & Gillow Or. 10/-	2/3	2/3	...	Nil
11/4½	3/9	4/1½	2/3	Do. 6% Cum. Pref. £1	3/6	3/6	...	Nil
27/1½	19/6	28/6	24/3	Wiggins, Teape Ord. £1	27/6	26/3	−1/3	7 12 6
50/3	34/3	...	...	*Woolworth (F.W.) Or* 5/-	57/6	54/6	−3/-	6 8 0
				Mines.				
18/9	7/6	8/9	6/-	Anglo-Am. of S.A. 10/-	7/3	6/6	−9d	Nil
48/5½	24/6	41/9	23/1½	Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	25/6	25/6	...	...
12/6	7/6	13/1½	11/6	Broken Hill Prop. 8/-	12/1½	12/1½	...	Nil
10/11½	5/2½	9/8¾	8/4½	*Burma Corp.* (*Rs.* 10)	8/9	8/9	...	8 6 0
7/1½	2/10½	3/7½	2/6	*Bwana M'Kubwa*, 5/- *fp*	2/9	2/9	...	Nil
12½	5	11⅛	5½	Central Mining £8	£8⅛	£7⅞	−¼	Nil
32/6	11/3	29/0¾	13/9	Cons. Glds. of S. Af. £1	24/3	19/3	−5/-	Nil
11/6	4/7½	6/6¾	5/-	Cons. Mines Selection 10/-	5/7½	5/7½	...	Nil
110/-	74/0¾	5⅜	5	Crown Mines 10/-	107/6	100/-	−7/6	7 0 0
5⅜	2½	4½	3½	De Beers Def. £2½	3⅝	3½	−⅛	Nil
95/3¾	71/10½	93/4½	77/6	Geduld £1	81/3	77/6	−3/9	7 15 0
7/10½	6/1½	6/6	6/1½	Idris Hyd. Tin 5/-	6/3	6/3	...	8 0 0
31/3	19/4½	25/9	20/6	Johan. Cons. £1	23/6	20/9	−2/9	7 5 0
12/1½	7/7½	10/9	8/1½	Lake View and Star 4/-	9/9	9/6	−3d	Nil
2/9	9d	2/2½	1/6	Loangwa 5/-	1/9	1/7½	−1½d	Nil
16/-	8/-	14/8¾	9/7½	*London Tin* 10/-	10/7½	10/-	−7½d	Nil
30/6	14/3	16/9	15/-	Malayan Tin 5/-	16/-	15/6	−6d	14 12 0
14/-	9/1½	12/1½	9/9	Modder B 5/-	10/6	10/-	−6d	28 0 0
19/1½	11/3	18/6	16/3	Mount Lyell £1	16/3	16/3	...	6 3 3
7/6	3/10½	5/-	4/3	Pahang Consolid. 5/-	5/-	4/3	−9d	Nil
13/1½	6/3	7/6	6/-	Rhoden Anglo-Am. 10/-	6/-	6/6	+6d	Nil
8	3	4	2½	*Rhokana Corp.* £1	3½	3	−½	Nil
31	12	21½	12½	*Rio Tinto* £5	17⅜	13	−4⅜	7 10 0
20/-	5/9	9/-	6/3	*Roan Antelope Cpr.* 5/-	7/-	6/6	−6d	Nil
14/10½	6/10½	9/3	7/3	S. Francisco of Mex 10/-	9/-	8/6	−6d	Nil
9/10½	4/9	7/6	6/6	Siamese Tin 5/-	7/3	6/6	−9d	11 0 0
79/4½	58/10½	74/4½	63/9	Springs Mines £1	68/9	65/-	−3/9	11 15 0
36/6¾	15/-	23/-	16/3	*Tanganyika* £1	21/3	16/3	−5/-	Nil
15/9	9/9	14/-	12/4½	Tronoh Mines 5/-	13/9	13/9	...	4 13 0
63/1½	41/3	58/1½	45/-	Union Corp. (12/6 fypd)	51/3	48/9	−2/6	6 16 0
35/6	11/3	34/3	22/0¾	Zinc Corporation 10/-	22/6	22/-	−6d	3 7 0

† Free of Income Tax.

NEW ISSUE PRICES.

Stock or Share.	Issue price.	Amt. paid.	Price, Mar. 16, 1932.	Price, Mar. 30, 1932.
Brazil 5% 20 Yr. Funding "A"	...	...	...	69–70
Do. Funding "B"	...	...	...	45½–46½
Central Electricity Board 5% Debs.	95	50	3½–3¾ pm	7½–7¾ pm
Croydon Corporation 5% Stock 1950-60	100,	30	3¾–4¼ pm	5½–6¼ pm
Darlington Rustless Steel and Iron Ord. £1	...	£1	21/6–22/6	21/6–22/6
Electrical Finance Co. 5½% Debs.	99	ty.pd.	99–102	101–104
Lever Bros. 5% Debs.	98	20	...	3¾–3½ pm
Lyons (J.) and Co. 7% Pref.	22/6	...	...	26/– – 26/6
Mauritius 5% 1951–1971	98½	ty.pd.	105½–106½	105–107
Metropolitan District Railway 5% Deb. 1985–95	97½	20	3½–3¾ pm	5¾–6¼ pm
Metropolitan Electric Supply New Ord. £1	...	...	39/6–40/6	39/6–40/6
Metropolitan Railway 5% Deb. 1957–82	97½	25	1¼–1½ pm	2¾–3¼ pm
Nyasaland 4½% Gtd. 1952–72	97½	42½	2¼–3¼ pm	4¼–4¾ pm
Poole Corporation 5% Stock 1952–72	100½	15	2½–3 pm	4–4¼ pm
Port of London 5% Stk. 1950–70	101½	5	...	2¾–3¾ pm
Shropshire, Worcestershire, etc., Elec. Power 5% Deb. 1952–82	94	10	...	6¾–7¾ pm
Uganda 5% 1951–71	96	ty.pd.	6¼–7 pm	104½–105

(*Continued from page* 743.)

OTHER CENTRES.

Restricted business and considerable apprehension ruled on most of the minor European Bourses at the outset. Brussels was a disturbing influence, heavy unloading being attributed to an important failure. Stockholm was depressed, Ericsson falling to a nominal figure, while Skandinaviska Bank shares were weak. A slightly firmer tone followed the announcement of Government assistance for the bank. Conditions were dull and heavy in Milan.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Royal Mail Scheme Approved.—On March 23rd, the approval of the Royal Mail Scheme, by meetings of creditors in respect of loans and guarantees of Harland and Wolff, completed the successful navigation of the difficult waters between Scylla and Charybdis. The decisions at the twenty-nine meetings in connection with the Scheme were either unanimous or given by sufficiently large majorities to leave no doubt of the emphatic support of those concerned. The opposition of the trustees of the Elder Dempster "A" debenture stockholders was not pushed to extreme lengths, while the trustees for the African Steam Ship 6 per cent. debenture stockholders did not go beyond somewhat frigid acceptance of a *pis aller*. The actual voting in all cases was a tribute to the efficacy of Sir William McLintock in the rôle of Orpheus. The most dangerous opposition, in effect, came from the representatives of certain banks interested as holders of discounted bills, who were finally induced to accept the terms offered. As no critics have seen fit to carry opposition to extreme lengths, the Scheme stands confirmed as an ingenious and equitable arrangement, which will come into force after approval by the Court. The rehabilitation of the fortunes of the largest shipowning group in the world is now in excellent hands, though immediate conditions in world shipping could scarcely be less favourable.

Kreuger Group Developments.—Increasing nervousness has been evident in the market in Kreuger and Toll and Swedish Match securities, which have suffered further severe depreciation. This has been due partly to rumours and partly to a preliminary statement issued by the investigating committee in Stockholm. The latter intimated that, although the investigation was by no means completed, it was already apparent that if the company were compulsorily liquidated at the present time it would not be in a position to meet all its liabilities. This was attributed by the Committee mainly to the heavy depreciation in the value of its assets, but there was a hint that further trouble might be discovered. The statement was not regarded as altogether happily worded, for the market had already realised that the company was not immediately solvent and that if it were to meet all its liabilities its assets would require to be nursed. Moreover, Messrs. Lee, Higginson and Co., the American fiscal agents of Kreuger and Toll, declared last Saturday that the findings of the Swedish investigating committee were at variance with statements made to them by the late Mr Kreuger on his recent visit to New York. According to Messrs. Higginson, Mr Kreuger's figures showed that the company was able to meet all its obligations without further borrowing. Another disturbing development was the publication in New York of the revised list of collateral deposited as security for the 5 per cent. secured debentures. The original prospectus on which these 5 per cent. secured debentures was issued in 1929 showed that $124 millions of French rentes had been deposited out of the total list of $60 millions. The revised list showed that this block of French rentes had disappeared and that holdings of Jugoslavian and other Central European bonds had been substituted. This, in point of fact, would not appear directly to infringe the terms of the prospectus, which allowed a change-over of the collateral, provided that the par value of the total list was not less than 120 per cent. of the 5 per cent. secured debentures and the income not less than 120 per cent. of the debenture interest requirements. It has been announced from Sweden that application has been made for the prolongation of the moratorium until May 1st, while a semi-official statement has referred to the desirability of further measures to protect the holdings of the Kreuger companies against forced liquidation. Meanwhile the Swedish Prime Minister has issued a statement to the effect that the Government is preparing measures to help the credit institutions which have been most affected. The Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget, in particular, is to receive Government support to a total of Kr. 100 millions, with a further Kr. 40 millions to Kr. 50 millions from the Swedish banks. At the moment of writing, Kreuger and Toll "B" shares are quoted at only 7s. 6d., as compared with 2 15/16 a fortnight ago, and the 5 per cent. secured debentures at 20, as compared with 45. Swedish Match "B" shares have fallen to 1½, as compared with 8½.

Vickers.—The very wide range of the interests covered by Vickers, now entirely a holding company, makes its annual results a species of industrial barometer. Net trading profit was reduced last year from £1,173,269 to £943,811, and the payment of an ordinary dividend of 5 per cent., in place of the 8 per cent. maintained for the previous four years, involves the distribution of earnings up to the hilt, a departure from the company's previous practice. Doubtless the directors regard accumulated reserves of £3,884,829 as adequate for the time being:—

	Years ended December 31. 1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£
Net trading profit	1,270,999	1,173,269	943,811
Tax and interest charges, &c.	329,028	397,343	369,318
Balance	941,971	775,926	574,493
Preference dividends	418,190	418,190	418,190
Ordinary — *Earned*	*15·9%*	*11·2%*	*5·9%*
Ordinary — Paid	8%	8%	5%
Ordinary — Amount of dividend	262,730	254,520	153,044
To reserve	250,000	100,000	Nil
Increase in carry-forward	11,050	3,216	2,259

Considerable changes are shown among the items composing "floating assets," which, in the aggregate, are diminished by £332,000, while "creditors" are down by £490,000. These movements will doubtless be explained in the chairman's speech next Monday. The company's position, nevertheless, remains thoroughly liquid. An item "British Government securities, £3,560,448," is the more impressive since the valuation is stated to be at or below market prices, so that substantial appreciation must have accrued since December 31st. These large free resources will permit of the company's taking full advantage of any future revival of trade. Of the two principal subsidiaries, Metropolitan-Cammell suffered a loss in 1931, and the value of Vickers' holding has accordingly been written down by £100,000. The other subsidiary, Vickers-Armstrongs, suffered a reduction in profit from £337,407 to £282,244, and also a heavy

capital has been through a drastic reduction of capital by the British Steel Corporation, which is discussed in a succeeding note. This, however, necessitates no provision in Vickers' balance sheet, in which the holding of 5,206,800 Vickers-Armstrongs £1 ordinary shares is already valued at nil. Vickers ordinary shares, of 6s. 8d. nominal value, stand at 7s. 3d. cum dividend, and yield £4 16s. 6d. per cent.

Reorganised Coal and Steel Companies.—Four great companies whose names have been to the fore in reconstruction schemes during the past few years have just issued their reports for 1931. Together they throw light on the special difficulties which the economic depression has created for those who have been attempting to reorganise the heavy industries of Britain. Only one of the four—Vickers-Armstrongs—was able to make any distribution to its preference shareholders. This company was formed four years ago to take over all the armament and naval shipbuilding interests of Vickers, and is interested in heavy steel through the English Steel Corporation. It reports a profit of £266,868 (against £97,497 in 1930), which is struck after allocating £88,685 to depreciation. Its earnings represent only 1¼ per cent. on the total issued capital. The English Steel Corporation, itself the child of a reconstruction almost as recent as 1929, has been under the necessity of writing down its capital by no less than £5,372,820 as from January 1, 1932. Vickers-Armstrongs appears to have suffered a capital loss of some £2,830,000 in connection with this writing down, for which provision remains to be made in its balance sheet. Baldwins, the South Wales coal and steel company, which carried through a capital reduction in 1928, earned £174,080 last year against £200,905 in 1930, and thus covered its debenture interest and sinking fund charges. But the income available for stockholders, who received 8½ per cent. in 1929 and 3¾ per cent. in 1930, are to have nothing, and in order to allocate £60,000 (against £80,000) to depreciation it has been necessary to withdraw £45,995 from the reserve and the carry-forward. Though the company suffered through the three weeks' coal strike in South Wales at the beginning of last year, the report discloses that the British (Guest Keen-Baldwins) Iron and Steel Company, which was formed two years ago to amalgamate the heavy steel interests of Baldwins and Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, showed a manufacturing profit of £74,877, against a loss of £68,457 in 1930. This is an impressive testimony to the potentialities of "rationalisation," since the company's actual turnover may well have been lower. The other two "reconstruction" companies—the Lancashire Steel Corporation and the Wigan Coal Corporation—were formed during 1930 to take over the steel and the coal assets respectively of the Pearson and Knowles, Wigan Coal and Iron Company and associated companies in Lancashire. The Lancashire Steel Corporation, exemplifying the value of well-considered amalgamation, has raised its profits from £19,567 to £53,367 (subject to depreciation in each case) in spite of the deepening of the industrial depression. The Wigan Coal Corporation reports a net profit of £4,461, against £13,059, but the difference appears to be more than accounted for by the drop of £6,925 (against nothing in 1930) for depreciation of wagons. The maintenance of a small profit was achieved in spite of a decrease of 130,000 tons in the output of coal. Neither of these two operating companies is able to pay any dividend at present to the holding companies, but both appear well placed to take advantage of [illegible] Lancashire Steel, like Vickers-Armstrongs, has no debenture charges whatsoever, and the profit, which was left after capital reconstruction of £1,000,000, has the heavy burden of debenture interest and sinking fund, may have its earnings for ordinary absorbed by payments to debenture holders. [illegible] companies reviewed in this Note [illegible] success, but all are weathering [illegible] more reason to be thankful for [illegible], without which their show-

Imperial Chemical Report.—The preliminary earnings figures of Imperial Chemical Industries for 1931 (which were dealt with in the *Economist* of March 19th last, page 644) showed that gross income had fallen only by 9 per cent. The full accounts give the credit for this achievement to "a steady and successful pursuit . . . of a vigorous policy of efficiency" and afford a few general indications of the nature of the year's trading. The volume of home business in alkali products showed only a trifling fall as compared with 1930, but a sharp decline occurred in the export trade, accentuated by the catastrophic floods in China. Aggregate sales of fertilisers showed a fall of 19 per cent., but the volume of sales of dyestuffs increased by 9 per cent. As the market for the company's products is world wide, and the total international trade of countries responsible for more than half the world's commerce fell by 28 per cent. last year, the company's "vigorous policy of efficiency" has clearly stood it in good stead. Its balance-sheet figures are so large, and its subsidiary interests so ramified, that even the most informative of annual reports would leave the average shareholder peering through a glass darkly. It is clear, however, that while holdings in and advances to subsidiary companies, previously valued at £71,102,574 have been written down by £1,837,596 (which in the directors' opinion represents the value of works rendered redundant by concentration of manufacture, etc.), and approximately £1,750,000 has been expended from revenue on the maintenance of buildings and plant, nothing has been written off the book value of "marketable and other investments." The latter stand at £10,182,771, but on December 31st last had a market value £3,346,565 lower. No revaluation is, apparently, to be made "until the general financial situation is clearer." Important adjustments have been made in reserves. The "Central Obsolescence and Depreciation Fund" has received £1,500,000 from capital reserve, some £1,837,596 of which has been used to write down holdings in subsidiaries (the remaining £500,000 used for that purpose coming direct from general reserve). Out of last year's profits, as previously stated, a further £1,000,000 has been appropriated for the central obsolescence and depreciation fund, which now stands at £5,662,404. A statement at the end of the accounts makes it quite clear that this fund is to be used for the requirements of practically the whole group, the subsidiaries no longer making separate depreciation provision in their own accounts. Broadly, therefore, it may be said that the 1931 profits have been arrived at after charging £1,000,000 for depreciation, writing down investments in subsidiaries out of reserves, and leaving the question of depreciation in marketable investments in abeyance. The company's holding of cash has increased from £2,928,376 to £4,222,900.

Cunard.—The latest accounts may be read in conjunction with the announcement that discussions between the members of the North Atlantic Shipping Conference have resulted in acceptance, in principle, of a general reduction of 20 per cent. in fares, which a number of companies had previously announced independently. The Cunard's gross income for 1931 was £5,614,311, and showed a decline of nearly 30 per cent. as compared with 1930. The company covered its interest charges and part of its depreciation,

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY
SECURITY FIRST
FUNDS EXCEED £42,000,000
CLAIMS PAID, OVER £200,000,000
Head Offices.
LIVERPOOL North John St.
LONDON Lombard St.

but, after charging the latter at the normal rate, showed a net loss of £553,204. Some £350,000 was transferred from contingencies reserve and the carry-forward was reduced by £270,704:—

	Year to December 31, 1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£
Gross income	9,425,606	7,945,386	5,614,311
Expenditure	7,573,083	6,948,791	5,217,803
Depreciation	778,047	732,664	704,779
Fees	11,956	13,280	12,883
Interest, &c.	252,881	232,050	232,050
Net profit	809,639	18,601	*Dr.553,204*
Preference dividend	135,000	135,000	67,500
Ordinary dividend	417,770	Nil	Nil
Rate %	7½	Nil	Nil
Transferred from contingencies reserve	Nil	Nil	*350,000*
Reserve	50,000	Nil	Nil
Increase or decrease in carry-forward	+ 206,869	− 116,399	− 270,704

The transfer from contingencies reserve has been fully offset by credits of a non-recurring nature available during the year. The accounts, though more informative than usual, fail to make plain the extent of the company's current liabilities, since the item "due to creditors," of £3,435,063, includes the contingencies reserve, whose amount is unknown. As readily realisable assets amount to no more than £1,926,817, the company's decision to suspend the construction of its new liner is clearly justified. Sailings have been curtailed as a result of the reduced volume of business and the almost complete cessation of emigration, and arrangements have been made with certain other companies to avoid operation of redundant tonnage. Second-class travel has been abolished on all the company's steamers, and "tourist class" accommodation proportionately extended.

Morris Motors.—The accounts for 1931 show that gross profit has fallen by nearly 40 per cent. to £1,020,800. After allowances for wear and tear, losses on exchange and benevolent funds and deduction of tax, net profit is £574,637, against £955,402. The ordinary shares, which are all privately held, receive 5 per cent., against 10 per cent.:—

Year to December 31.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£
Gross profit	1,607,528	1,689,875	1,020,800
Taxation	246,062	357,314	236,107
Net profit (after tax)	1,039,118	955,402	574,637
Brought forward	154,635	118,753	258,112
Preference div.	225,000	225,000	225,000
No. of times covered	*5·7*	*5·8*	*3·6*
Ordinary div.—			
Amount	200,000	200,000	100,000
Earned % *(before tax)*	*53·0*	*54·3*	*29·2*
Paid %	10†	10†	5†
Written off securities	Nil	Nil	148,418*
Goodwill, &c., written off	650,000	391,043	100,000
Carried forward	118,753	258,112	259,331

* Including loss on sale of investments, £5,756.
† Tax free.

Government securities have been written down to market value at the date of the balance sheet, requiring a transfer of £114,382 from reserve for contingencies, which stands in the balance sheet at £245,792, and a charge of £142,661 on revenue account. Losses incurred on the sale of Government securities total £5,756. The report points out that Government securities, at the date of publication, show an appreciation of £246,572 over their written-down value. A further sum of £100,000 is used to write down patents, goodwill, etc., the item being thus reduced to £500,000. A decidedly liquid position is again disclosed. The directors have decided to meet the current economic difficulties by establishing the selling prices of the 1931-32 models at such figures as will show the lowest margin of profit consistent with business prudence in view of the reserves created in the past. The £1 Preference shares, at 23s. 3d., yield about £6 9s. per cent.

Lancashire Cotton Corporation.—A series of critical circulars issued from Manchester by Mr W. K. Waller, in which the conclusion is reached that the corporation "has failed to justify its existence," serve at least to concentrate attention on the published results for the year to October 31st last of this merger concern, which embodies the most determined practical effort made, as yet, to rationalise the Lancashire spinning industry. The profit and loss account showed a debit trading balance of £310,780, compared with a debit balance for the previous year of £140,795. After deduction of fixed charges, a debit of £556,093, against £162,269, was carried forward. The report pointed out that rapid progress had been made towards completing the legal formalities in connection with the acquisition of mills, and that the corporation had completed negotiations in respect of 107 mills. The share capital and income debenture stock had grown from £2,596,092 to £6,725,656. The total cost of fixed assets acquired amounted to £8,383,108 and £144,237 had been expended on improvements during the year. Liquid assets amounted to £1,968,112, against bills payable and sundry creditors of £321,449. The results for the past two years are tabulated below:—

	Years to October 31, 1930.	1931.
	£	£
Trading loss	*140,795*	*310,780*
Interest, &c., received	2,810	7,366
Interest and bank charges	20,133	26,375
Directors' fees	4,250	4,250
Other fees	Nil	6,353
Debenture interest	Nil	53,333†
Earned for dividends	*Dr. 162,368**	*Dr. 393,725**
Carried forward	*Dr. 162,368*	*Dr. 556,093*

† Paid by guarantor. * Before providing for depreciation.

The corporation was registered in January, 1929. The three years since its inception have been a difficult transition period, in which inevitable technical problems have been accentuated by unprecedented trade depression. In the circumstances, Mr Waller's dictum that "any company that cannot show justification, with all the privileges and benefits that this company has enjoyed, within a period of three years, may definitely abandon hope as to its future," is both premature and unfair. Similarly, when Mr Waller states that "in comparison with individual concerns, the corporation's methods are responsible for a deficiency of about £5,300 per 100,000 spindle mill per annum," he again entirely disregards the factor of initial and temporary disequilibrium, which is quite independent of "method." The Lancashire Cotton Corporation has still to prove its ability to produce profits from chaos, but no useful purpose can be served by expecting it completely to rectify in three abnormal years all the past misfortunes, errors and omissions of the industry.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

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Name.....

Address.....

.....

North American Company.—This company controls, through stock ownership, four main groups of American public utility companies. Gross earnings for 1931 show a decline of nearly 12 per cent., and earnings on the common stock are equal to $3.41 per share on the average number of shares outstanding, compared with $4.53 per share in 1930:—

	Year.	
	1930.	1931.
	$	$
Gross earnings	133,751,380	117,921,860
Operating expenses, &c.	69,838,439	62,792,738
Net income from operation	63,912,941	55,129,122
Other net income	7,461,528	8,077,479
Total	71,374,469	63,206,601
Deductions	28,277,176	25,427,471
Balance for depreciation, dividends and surplus	43,097,293	37,779,130
Depreciation reserves	14,274,173	13,506,179
Preference dividend	1,820,034	1,820,034
Common dividend	5,947,487	8,133,290
Surplus	21,055,599	14,319,627

The total consolidated assets of the company are now $870,866,558, of which investments account for $140,044,484. The sum of $12,000,000 has been appropriated from undivided profits as a reserve for contingencies to provide for the difference between book value and market value of listed securities. Total reserves amount to $117,482,915, an increase of $13,812,846. Although industrial consumption of electricity in 1931 declined by 10.67 per cent. and commercial consumption by 3.51 per cent., "residential" takings increased by 7.55 per cent. Only one-sixth of the total sales of electricity by the North American company subsidiaries, however, are for household purposes.

Tin Restriction.—The International Tin Committee has just congratulated the Governments participating in the Tin Restriction Scheme on their very close adherence to the quotas allotted. There appears to be little else on which the industry can be congratulated at the moment. The figures for the first complete year of restriction showed that the adjusted totals of exports were only 36 tons in excess of the authorised quotas for the five participating countries. The congratulations of the Tin Committee are no doubt intended to prepare the Governments for a further turn of the restriction screw. It is reported that at the next meeting of the Tin Committee to be held in London on April 22nd, a further cut in production of 8,420 tons a year, corresponding to one month's production, will be considered in order to keep pace with the falling-off in world consumption. The Tin Committee, faced with an effective world output, on the 1929 basis, of 191,876 tons, started with an initial schedule of 145,000 tons as from March 1, 1931, and, as consumption continued to decline, imposed further cuts of 20,000 tons as from June 1, 1931, and of 15,000 tons from January 1, 1932, thus bringing the annual production figure down to under 110,000 tons. Consumption fell from 195,000 tons in 1929 to 156,000 tons in 1930, and the Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation estimates consumption in 1931 at 120,701 tons, as against supplies of 132,828 tons. The total visible supply and carry-over in the Straits Settlements at the end of February, 1932, according to Straits statistics, amounted to 59,708 tons, against 8,000 tons at the end of February, 1931. The restriction scheme has admittedly prevented surplus stocks from reaching more dangerous proportions, but the outlook for consumption is not promising. Deliveries in the United States have shown a somewhat startling fall this year. [illegible] the London cash price of tin fell from £122 to £116 2s. 6d. a ton, partly in adjustment with the [illegible] gold value of sterling. A further break on Thursday carried the price down to £114.

MINING NOTES.

"Johnnies" Group Results.—Thanks to the richness of two of the Eastern Rand propositions, the subsidiaries of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company as a whole account for some 40 per cent. of the profits of the Witwatersrand, although they produced no more than 30 per cent. of the gold. Last year that particularly high-grade property, the Government Areas, secured a working profit of £2,711,770, against £2,686,750 in 1930. The effect of a moderate expansion in costs was more than offset by a fresh advance in revenue per ton, which average 39s. 5d. Payment of the 20 per cent. dividend total (which had ruled for the three preceding years) left the substantially enhanced balance of £116,200 to go forward. At the second of the two mines mentioned above—the New State Areas—a renewed increase in the tonnage milled was accompanied by a fresh rise in the yield, the latter averaging 42s. 6d. per ton, against 40s. 9d. in 1930 and only 35s. 8d. two years previously. Costs, at 22s. 8d., were nearly 1s. up, but the working profit came out at £951,500, permitting the payment of 20 per cent., as compared with 17½ per cent. in respect of 1930 and 12½ per cent. for each of the three preceding periods. Capital expenditure and debenture redemption absorbed £67,400, entailing a small draft upon the carry-forward. The debenture issue has now been reduced to £186,600. While no definite pronouncement on the point is available, there would appear to be ground for the belief that, owing to the Union Government's participation in the profits—a participation recently exceeding one-half the total—these two companies will not be liable for the increase of 5 per cent. in income tax. The results of the Van Ryn Deep display a further all-round falling off, the working surplus of £335,300 comparing with £460,100 in 1930 and £497,600 in 1929. The dividend aggregate is cut from 30 per cent. to 25 per cent., but even so the carry-over is £17,400 lower at £42,270. Last year's earnings on the part of the Langlaagte Estate fell somewhat short of those of 1930, but sundries brought in rather more than before, and the appropriation account was swollen by £14,880 from sales of property and township lands. After repetition of the 1930 enhanced dividend rate of 20 per cent., £123,400 remained to go over, as against £108,200 brought in. Particular interest attaches to the showing of the Randfontein Estates, which has made such notable progress during the past two years. At £595,600 the working profit of 1931 shows a fresh expansion of £183,100. In the main this difference is attributable to improvement in grade, although increase in tonnage crushed played its part. Capital expenditure and debenture redemption again called for a large amount—£381,100—which was somewhat less than in 1930. Provision has been made for a distribution of 2½ per cent.—the first since June 1925—the balance forward being £20,600 higher at £165,000. By the year's appropriation of £146,400, the debentures issue had by

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December 31st been reduced to £201,960, and is now only £46,760. It may be recalled that in his report for 1930 the consulting engineer gave confirmation of rumours which had been current as to a flattening of the reefs. It is now stated "there is no reasonable doubt that the flattening is and will continue to be progressive. . . . Permanent works have been designed to take advantage of the change." The principal work of the mine having a strike of some 19,000 ft. of the main reef series, the importance of this development cannot easily be over-rated. We have made no reference to the ore reserve figures, which have been published in advance and commented upon in our issue of January 31st.

Rand Mines.—The reduction in last year's receipts under the heading of dividends is chiefly attributable to the company's interests other than gold mining. A fresh shrinkage in the interest and exchange revenue is partly offset by a recovery in the net income from the reservoirs, which no longer has to be trenched upon by depreciation. Despite the conditions which have prevailed, the profits on sales and investments was fairly well maintained, though the total remains comparatively small. The net addition to investment reserve account falls below even the reduced total of 1930. The amount written off investment reserve stands at £221,400, as compared with £355,800 twelve months ago. The results of the past three years are summarised below:—

	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£
Dividends on shareholdings ...	486,530	500,510	476,120
Sundries	92,310	80,490	51,920
Investment realisation profits...	5,910	47,640	44,660
Total income.....	584,750	628,640	572,700
Administration expenses.....	29,690	24,360	23,110
Taxation	33,200	37,040	31,410
Prospecting	9,490	2,570	8,560
Net profit	512,380	564,670	509,620
Dividends	511,290	460,160	409,030
Rate per cent.	100	90	80
Earned per cent.	96·4	106·2	95·9
To reserve account	477,190	98,230	63,080
Brought forward	897,800	422,030	828,820
Carried forward†	422,030	428,820	466,710

† Including forfeited dividends refunded.

At £2,446,400 the portfolio shows a reduction of some £80,000. The principal changes comprise a lessening of the company's holding of Durban Deeps and an increase in the participation in Modder B. A small interest has been taken in the Grootvlei Proprietary. On December 31st the cash assets totalled £3,260,100, against creditors for £609,000. As a whole, the company's mining subsidiaries are giving satisfactory results. Only the oil holdings continue under a cloud, and the position of the Anglo-Spanish Construction Company is not assured. In the later concern £248,000 debentures are held. On the basis of last year's distribution the yield shown is about 7 per cent. (in Union currency).

Robinson Deep.—The accounts for 1931 reflect a full year's working under the changed conditions as regards capital. Reduction in the tonnage crushed is accounted for by the suspension of milling at the Village Deep plant; the Robinson Deep mill treated 99,000 tons more than in the preceding period. A slight advance in costs being considerably more than counterbalanced by improvement in grade, the profits showed a fresh expansion. Disappointment was felt at the failure of the company to repeat, as interim for the past year, the rate declared in respect of the concluding session of 1930. This, it will be recollected, was due to the necessity of finding £37,500 to complete the purchase from the Village Deep. All told, capital outlay last year absorbed £118,000, as compared with £129,000 in 1930, and nothing further was required for debenture redemption, the balance of the issue having been cleared off. We contrast the results of the past four years:—

	Year ends December 31,			
	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Tons of ore milled	918,400	919,900	1,330,000	1,138,000
Yield per ton	23/5	23/4	23/3	24/5
Costs per ton	19/8	19/7	19/3	19/6
Profit per ton	3/9	3/9	3/11	5/-
	£	£	£	£
Profit on working	173,954	172,830	261,170	288,530
Net profit	116,335	135,020	134,480	147,300
"A" shares £.....	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
"A" shares %.....	300	300	300	300
"B" shares:—				
Earned £	*41,335*	*60,020*	*59,480*	*72,300*
Paid £	Nil	Nil	57,120	69,650
Earned %	*4·7*	*6·8*	*6·7*	*8·5*
Paid %	Nil	Nil	6½	8¼
To debenture redemption	35,700	35,700	35,800	...
Other allocations	1,714	1,714	1,716	1,000
Carried forward	76,845	99,452	64,234	53,400
Ore reserves, tons	1,407,000	1,357,000	2,397,000	2,592,000
Value, dwt.	6·1	6·0	5·9	5·9

The expansion in the ore reserves seems scarcely commensurate with an increase from 37,580 to 50,620 ft. in the development footage. This may be associated with the policy of carrying out work in areas previously classed as unpayable—a policy which, it is stated, "has in several cases disclosed highly payable reef." It should be realised, however, that some of the workings are now distinctly deep. At one point they are at a vertical depth of 9,730 feet from the surface.

Simmer and Jack.—A fresh improvement in profits occurred last year, thanks to the treatment of an increased tonnage of ore carrying somewhat better values. The working surplus of £135,800 compares with £106,140 in 1930 and £70,000 in 1929. For the last-named period there was no distribution. In respect of 1930 the shareholders received 1½d., and for the past year 2d. per unit. Despite the performance of a substantially increased development footage the ore reserves are 66,300 tons down at 1,558,700 tons. The difference is explained partly by a reduction of one inch in the estimated stoping width, and partly by the exclusion of certain blocks where the distribution of gold was found to be extremely erratic. Allowance being made for sorting, the tonnage at present available represents barely a year and a half's supply. The cash position shows a small deficit, and further capital outlay must be faced. In all the circumstances the quotation of the 2s. 6d. shares at about 3s. 6d. appears to make rather a liberal allowance for the possibilities of the future.

East Rand Proprietary.—In the case of this large-scale undertaking some expansion in tonnage milled last year, together with a small reduction in costs, more than offset a slight decline in grade, the working profit coming out at £158,200, against £137,500 for 1930 and £135,800 for 1929. Capital expenditure, at £63,600, although still considerable, fell £37,600 below the total of the preceding period, certain items having been deferred. To the policy followed in this respect the ability of the company to re-enter the dividend list is partly responsible. The payment of 5 per cent., absorbing £75,000, entailed a small draft upon the carry-forward, which now stands at £315,600. Of cash assets totalling £466,200, some £320,200 is receivable in British sterling. The performance last year of an increased footage was accompanied by an improvement in the percentage of payability which worked out at 88.3 as compared with 81.9. At 2,530,000 tons the ore reserves display an expansion of 268,000 tons, the value being slightly better than before at 5.5 dwts. Even now the ore reserve position cannot be described as strong, the quantity of material taken out of the mine last year exceeding 2,000,000 tons. The 10s. shares are quoted on the Stock Exchange at around 12s. 6d.

Ivy Dep.—Thanks to completion of the revised and extended programme of operations, small profits were earned during the latter part of 1931 in place of small losses. Thus the deficit on working amounted to only £1,600, as against £23,000 in 1930 and £139,200 in 1929. After providing for taxation, miners' phthisis and the like, the net loss totalled £35,050. This sum was recouped from funds previously transferred in respect of capital expenditure. The cash position shows a shortage of £404,800, the loan from the parent companies having increased to £418,350. Despite a material cut in the development footage, the ore reserves have expanded by 58,600 tons to 1,795,000 tons; the value is also a trifle up at 6.23 dwts. The available tonnage represents little more than a year's supply for the mill, but last year only 47 per cent. of the material crushed was taken from the calculated reserves. Barring unforeseen contingencies, there seems little prospect of the company's return to the dividend list.

Geduld Proprietary.—Once again the results closely correspond with those of the preceding period. The slight difference, however, is on the right side and finds reflection in the dividend rate. A small relapse has occurred in the ore reserve tonnage, but even now the total falls little short of five years' supply:—

	1929.	1930.	1931.
Ore crushed ..... tons	1,008,100	1,011,000	1,012,000
Yield per ton.....	26/10	27/1	27/1
Cost per ton	16/6	16/5	16/3
Profit per ton	10/4	10/8	10/10
Total working profits ...	522,190	541,290	548,050
Net profits	471,000	488,900	494,050
Issued capital	1,460,860	1,460,860	1,460,860
Issued per cent.	32·7	33·3	33·8
Dividends .....£	456,520	474,780	493,040
Rate per cent.	31¼	32½	33¾
Carried forward*	190,270	202,590	201,800
Ore reserves ..... tons	5,900,000	6,000,000	5,900,000
Value ..... dwts.	6·7	6·6	6·6

* After deduction of directors' percentages.

The company took up its proportion of the 60,000 shares recently issued by the East Geduld. This interest at cost, less credits, stands in the balance sheet at £62,000. The ore reserves of the East Geduld on December 31st last totalled 8,750,000 tons, averaging 4.9 dwts. Crushing was commenced in July, and up to the end of the year 281,700 tons had been treated for a net working loss of £33,000. These rather disappointing results are attributed to the "limited nature of operations inherent to the opening-up of the mine and to absorption of gold in the plant."

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies: Bank of Australasia, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, National Bank of India, London Life Association, British Insulated Cables, Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply, Godfrey Phillips, British Aluminium, and Provincial Cinematograph Theatres. At the annual meeting of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Co., Mr Robert Heath told shareholders that, although their supply of current for industrial purposes had been seriously affected by the depression, the domestic supply business had shown a substantial increase, the number of new consumers connected during the year exceeding 18,000. This represented an increase of 10 per cent. over the number connected in 1930. Presiding at the annual meeting of British Insulated Cables, Sir Alexander Roger said that during the past year they had completed the Scottish contract for the Central Electricity Board and the contract for the Great Indian Peninsular Railway, with entire satisfaction. At the annual meeting of Godfrey Phillips, Mr Arthur Phillips said that during the year under review the company had increased its output in spite of the fact that during the period the total clearances of tobacco had tended to fall.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

Although conditions in the new issue market remain favourable for borrowers of high standing, and preparations for certain offers are advanced, the pace has slackened over the holidays. *The London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority* has offered £1,500,000 of 5 per cent. stock, 1955-75, at 101¼, to yield approximately £4 18s. 6d. per cent. The proceeds are to be used to purchase certain electricity undertakings under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1919, to repay bank advances, and for other purposes. The Authority's area now embraces 160 square miles in Middlesex and Surrey, and during the last three years its sales of units have increased by approximately 100 per cent. With the sanction of the Electricity Commissioners the Authority may issue stock, ranking pari passu, for a further £4,262,009. The stock is a first-class investment holding, though it is not, in the present state of the law, a trustee issue. An increasing number of important issues are being floated by way of Stock Exchange "introduction." *The Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Company*, for example, has issued £1,800,000 of 5 per cent. debenture stock at 94, Stock Exchange dealings beginning at 100½. *The Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta* have issued £1,075,000 of 5½ per cent. bearer debentures, 1962, with the sanction of the Government of India. These have been purchased by Haes and Sons at 98½ less a commission of ½ per cent. The issue is of interest as the first non-Government overseas offer of importance since the resumption of activity in the capital market.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Total recorded, January 1 to March 26, 1932, excluding conversions, £16,945,122
Total recorded, January 1 to March 26, 1932, including conversions, £138,264,715

National Savings Certificates.

Net receipts, week ended March 19, 1932, *Dr. £800,000.*
Total net receipts, April 1, 1931, to March 19, 1932, £2,000,000.

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
To the Public.	£	£	£	£	£
London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority, £1,500,000 5% Stock 1955-75 issued at 101¼%	1,500,000	...	1,522,500	75,000	1,447,500
Total offered to the public, week ended April 2, 1932 ...	1,500,000	...	1,522,500	75,000	1,447,500
To Shareholders only.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Total Offered for Subscription.—

Jan. 1 to date—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1932	139,787,215	18,467,622
1931	58,572,888	48,902,939
1930	153,262,582	96,767,064
1929	111,286,770	97,705,550
1928	...	172,980,625
1927	...	147,370,918
1926	...	75,108,400
1925	...	52,577,006

Total Offered for Subscription—

Whole year—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1931	114,290,666	102,044,291
1930	454,888,784	267,800,700
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	369,058,073
1927	...	355,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101

Nature of Borrowing.

	Debentures, Bonds, &c.	Preference Stocks and Shares.	Ordinary Stocks and Shares.	Total.
January 1 to date—	£	£	£	£
1932	16,019,014	1,755,000	693,608	18,467,622
1931	39,128,907	727,571	9,046,461	48,902,939
1930	82,470,144	8,345,697	5,951,223	96,767,064
Whole year—				
1931	74,835,599	6,911,859	20,296,833	102,044,291
1930	227,658,500	15,548,800	24,593,300	267,800,600
1929	137,670,300	31,543,400	116,025,700	285,239,400
1928	218,817,900	45,062,600	111,177,600	369,058,100
1927	228,958,000	36,836,600	98,381,400	355,156,600
1926	145,180,000	39,393,200	46,209,500	230,782,600

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	535,750	...	570,300
Grimsby Corporation, £625,000 5% red. stk., 1962-72 at 99¾	621,875	102½	639,062
Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Co., £1,800,000 5% deb., 1952-82, at 94	1,692,000	100½	1,809,000
Total, week ended April 2, 1932	2,313,875	...	2,448,062
Total to date, 1932	2,849,625	...	3,018,362
Total to date, 1931	2,744,375	...	2,807,132

Public Offers.

London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority.—Issue of £1,500,000 5 per cent. stock, 1955-75. The principal will be repaid at par on September 1, 1975, the authority having the option of redeeming the stock in whole or in part, on or after September 1, 1955, on six months' notice. Price of issue, £101½ per cent. The proceeds of the issue will be applied to the purchase of electricity undertakings. The stock and interest thereon are charged on the undertaking and all the revenues of the Authority.

Tunbridge Wells Gas Company.—Offer for sale by tender of £30,000 5½ per cent. perpetual debenture stock, minimum price £106 for £100 stock, yielding at that price £5 3s. 9d. per cent. Revenue for the year ended December 31, 1931, totalled £24,801, covering interest on the loan capital, including the present issue 3·9 times.

East Surrey Gas Company.—Sale by tender of £20,000 irredeemable 5½ per cent. preference "A" stock of the company at the minimum price of par.

Southend Waterworks.—An issue by tender will be made shortly of £100,000 5 per cent. irredeemable preference stock, minimum price £101 per £100 stock. The issue is a full trustee security.

Stock Exchange "Introductions."

Port of Calcutta.—Issue of £1,075,000 5½ per cent. bearer debentures to be repaid at par on April 1, 1962. The loan has been created by the Commissioners of the Port with the sanction of the Government of India and the India Office, and ranks *pari passu* with other loans as a first charge on the properties vested in the Commissioners. The debentures were purchased by Haes and Sons at 93½ per cent., less ½ per cent. commission for payment in full on April 1.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. — Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. — Latest Year.	Previous Year.
BANKS.				%	%
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	...	...	...	7	10
Bank of Athens	15%†	...	...	30	35
Bank of Rotterdam	...	...	...	3	5
Central Bank of India	...	...	Tax free	6	6
Credito Italiano	...	...	...	6	8
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Crivah Ceylon Estates	14%†	Apr. 26	...	20	25
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Tea	7½%†	...	...	20	25
Hanipha (Ceylon) Tea & Rubber	10%†	Apr. 30	...	15	17½
Mooloya Estates	12½%†	...	...	27½	35
Spring Valley Ceylon Estates	11%†	...	...	15	20
MINING.					
Champion Reef	...	...	...	15	10
North Broken Hill	1/6 p.s.*	...	...	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Albion Greyhounds (Def.)	10%*	Apr. 11	...	...	...
A. Reyrolle and Company	...	...	...	12½	12½
Bradleys (Chepstow Place)	...	...	...	5	12½
British Aluminium	...	...	...	5	10
British Portland Cement	...	...	...	15	15
Brompton and Kensington Electricity	...	...	...	1/8·4694d.	1/8·4694d.
Coleman and Company	6%†	...	...	10	10
East Kent District Water	...	...	...	6	6
Edward Lloyd	8¾%†	...	...	13¾	15
Equitable Reversionary	...	...	...	6	6
Frederick Gorringe	2½%†	...	...	5	7
Grainger and Smith	6%†	...	...	...	...
Groves and Whitnall	5%†	...	...	12½	15
Investors Trust Assocn. (Def.)	...	...	...	2½	5
John Knight	...	...	...	30	20
John Lewis and Company	3%*	...	...	5	5
Lancashire Light and Power	...	...	...	7(a)	6¼
Llanelly and District Electric	...	...	...	4	3¾
Lonsdale Trust	...	...	...	25	12½
Mellersh and Neale	...	...	...	11	15
Morgan Crucible (Def.)	6d. p.s.†	...	...	...	...
Natal Land and Colonisation	...	...	...	8	8
National Omnibus	...	...	...	8	8
New England and General Trust	2/- p.s.†	...	...	...	...
Provincl'l Cinematogr'ph Theatres	...	...	...	15	15
Pyne Bros.	...	...	...	8	9
Reversionary Interest	...	...	...	6¼	6½
Rolls-Royce	...	...	...	10	10
Scottish Capital Investment	3½%†	Apr. 19	...	6	7
Shrewsbury and Wem Brewery	...	...	...	6	8
Southern Stockholders' Investm't	1%*	Apr. 5	...	...	...
Standard Property Investment	...	...	...	12	11
St. James' Court Estate	...	...	...	5	8
Willey and Co. Holding Trust	6%*	...	...	...	...

(a) Rate per cent. per annum for nine months.

THE CITY OF LONDON REAL PROPERTY COMPANY, LTD.—The directors, feeling the necessity of providing liquid resources for the furtherance of future development, take this opportunity of advising that they do not intend recommending the payment of a final dividend on the ordinary shares (payable in June next) exceeding 1½ per cent.

STEWARTS AND LLOYDS, LTD.—No dividend will be paid on the deferred shares or on the liaison deferred shares out of the profits for the year 1931, amounting (subject to audit) to £317,000, making, with the carry-forward of £134,000 from last year, a total of £451,000; to recommend that £150,000 be set aside for depreciation, £75,000 to be placed to special reserve, and that dividends be paid on the first and second cumulative preference shares, leaving £136,000 to be carried forward.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended March 25, 1932. (c) Week ended March 26, 1932.		Miles Open.	Gross Receipts, week ended March 27, 1932. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate Gross Receipts, 12 weeks. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	1932	3,761	240	150	106	256	496	2,007	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1931	3,761	184	208	120	328	512	2,111	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(c) L. & N. Eastern	1932	6,355	346	277	195	472	818	3,066	3,694	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1931	6,351	274	376	236	612	886	3,206	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
L. M. & Scottish	1932	6,962½	579	371	230	601	1,180	4,695	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1931	6,957	434	496	256	752	1,186	4,751	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Southern	1932	2,181	340	52	28	80	420	2,871	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1931	2,180	256	77	35	112	368	2,973	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	1932	19259½	1,505	850	559	1409	2,914	12638	11813	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1931	19249	1,148	1157	647	1804	2,952	13041	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(c) Metropolitan	1932	59	30·3	...	...	2·9	33·2	350·9	...	...	43·1	[illegible]
	1931	59	30·7	...	...	3·8	34·5	370·9	...	...	46·6	[illegible]
(c) Underground R.R.	1932	...	277·4	...	...	...	277·4	3468·9	...	...	—	[illegible]
	1931	...	301·0	...	...	...	301·0	3575·5	...	...	—	[illegible]
(c) Green Buses, &c.	1932	...	32·5	...	...	...	32·5	319·9	...	...	—	[illegible]
	1931*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	[illegible]
(c) L. & Sb. Group	1932	...	42·0	...	...	...	42·0	506·8	...	...	—	...
	1931	...	44·1	...	...	...	44·1	518·9	...	...	—	[illegible]
(b) Belfast & Co. Down	1932	80	1·8	...	...	0·9	2·7	21·7	...	...	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1931	80	1·9	...	...	0·8	2·7	23·1	...	...	[illegible]	[illegible]
(b) Great Northern	1932	562	10·3	...	...	15·6	25·9	105·8	...	...	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1931	562	8·6	...	...	18·0	26·6	113·5	...	...	[illegible]	[illegible]
(b) Great Southern	1932	2,182	22·5	...	...	43·3	65·8	231·6	...	...	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1931	2,182	21·5	...	...	50·9	72·4	247·8	...	...	[illegible]	[illegible]

* The operations of these Companies were extended during 1931.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1932.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1932.	+ or −
INDIAN.							
		1932.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	47	Feb. 20	1,330	3,55,600	− 64,925	1,70,37,794	− [illegible]
Barsi Lt. Ry.	49	Mar. 5	202	37,700	+ 500	19,25,980	+ [illegible]
Bengal&N.Western	23	5	2,114	7,62,577	+ 69,449	1,18,52,778	+ [illegible]
Bengal-Nagpur	47	Feb. 20	3,274	14,98,000	−1,18,999	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Bombay,Bar.& C.I.	51	Mar. 26	3,084	22,21,000	−1,74,000	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Madras & S. Mahr.	49	5	3,230	18,40,000	+1,02,022	[illegible]	− [illegible]
†Rohilk'd& Kumaon	23	5	572	1,65,201	+ 16,508	[illegible]	− [illegible]
South Indian	49	5	2,495	11,05,207	+1,89,045	[illegible]	− [illegible]

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1932.	+ or −	1932.	+ or −
CANADIAN.							
		1932.		$	$	$	$
Canadian National	11	Mar. 21	20538	2,730,438	− 747,262	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Canadian Pacific	11	21	16811	2,298,000	− 609,000	[illegible]	− [illegible]
SOUTH AMERICAN.							
		1932.		£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	13	Mar. 27	804	10,600	− 6,560	154,910	− [illegible]
Argentine N.E.	39	26	753	8,600	− 2,900	468,100	− [illegible]
ArgentineTrans'dn.	39	26	111	1,726	− 1,411	69,744	− [illegible]
B.A. and Pacific	39	26	2,806	122,000	− 51,000	[illegible]	− [illegible]
B.A. Central	39	27	...	9,865	− 2,414	417,775	− [illegible]
B.A. Gt. Southern	39	26	5,076	239,000	− 24,000	[illegible]	− [illegible]
B.A. Western	39	26	1,926	63,000	− 17,000	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
Central Argentine	39	26	273	191,000	− 28,000	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
Central Uruguayan	39	26	273	12,085	− 11,375	540,978	− [illegible]
C. Urg. (East Ext.)	39	26	311	2,586	− 3,506	117,71[illegible]	− [illegible]
C. Urg. (N. Ext.)	39	26	185	1,375	− 1,177	57,314	− [illegible]
C. Urg. (W. Ext.)	39	26	211	1,501	− 860	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Cordoba Central	39	26	1,218	35,000	− 15,000	1,044,000	− [illegible]
Entre Rios	39	26	810	18,200	− 11,000	873,000	− [illegible]
G. Westn. of Brazil	13	26	1,052	7,800	+ 900	143,000	+ [illegible]
Leopoldina	13	26	1,918	22,329	+ 357	313,078	+ [illegible]
Leopoldina Termnl.	13	26	...	Ms.260000	− 3,000	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
Nitrate	†2½	15	411	2,354	− 4,362	17,186	− [illegible]
Paraguay Central	39	26	274	2,420	− 1,500	114,600	− [illegible]
Salvador	39	26	...	3,260	− 2,880	[illegible]	− [illegible]
San Paulo	12	20	153½	32,156	+ 5,788	304,862	+ [illegible]
United of Havana	39	26	1,367	54,397	+ 1,586	972,994	− [illegible]

† Months.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1932.	+ or −	1932.	+ or −
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
		1932.					
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	49	Mar. 10	620	£7,012	− 715	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Egyptian Markets	11	17	...	£1,808	+ 109	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Gt.Southn.ofSpain.	11	19	104	Ps. 40,414	− 39,367	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Mexican Railway	11	21	483	$197,300	− 30,800	[illegible]	− [illegible]

TRAMWAYS WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1932.	+ or −	1932.	+ or −
		1932.		£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine	12	Mar. 25	329	61,945	− 12,568	[illegible]	− [illegible]
B. Aires Lacroze	39	27	...	9 865	− 1,634	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Isle of Thanet Elec.	11	16	...	2,439	+ 6	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Liverpool Corp.	51	23	124	30,145	+ 455	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
Madras Electric	†2½	15	...	Rs. 53,407	+ 2,927	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
L.C.C. Tramways	52	30	166	71,647	− 8,899	[illegible]	− [illegible]

† Months.

MONTHLY TRAFFIC.

Company.	Months.	Ending 1932.	Description.	Receipts for Month. 1932.	+ or −	Receipts to Date. 1932.	+ or −
Barcelona Traction, Light, &c.	2	Feb. 29	Gross	Ps10,112,601	+ 204,944	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
			Net	Ps.6,861,038	+ 190,757	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
Brazilian Traction, &c.	2	29	Gross	$2,420,300	− 684,19[illegible]	[illegible]	− [illegible]
			Net	$1,346,032	− 461,617	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Canadian Nat. Railways	2	29	Gross	$11,004,397	− [illegible]	[illegible]	− [illegible]
			Net	(d) $589,428	+(d) [illegible]	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Canadian Pacific Railway	2	29	Gross	$9,043,000	− [illegible]	[illegible]	− [illegible]
			Net	$329,000	− [illegible]	[illegible]	+ [illegible]
Impl. Airways	10	29	Gross	£54,745	+ [illegible]	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Internat. Rlys. of Cent. America	2	29	Gross	$107,389	− [illegible]	[illegible]	− [illegible]
			Net	$47,174	− [illegible]		

(d) Deficit.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

GRATIFYING RESULTS IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.

EXPANSION OF GENERAL BUSINESS.

INVESTMENT DEPRECIATION AND RECOVERY.

THE EXCHANGE PROBLEM.

THE EARL OF MIDLETON'S ADDRESS.

The ninety-eighth annual general meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of Australasia was held, on the 31st ultimo, at the office of the Corporation, 4 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Midleton, K.P., presided.

The Manager (Mr Edmund Godward) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—I presume that we may take the report as read. (Agreed.) We meet under somewhat peculiar conditions to-day. This bank has had a long run of prosperity, and our reports to you have cemented the happy relations which have always existed between our directors and shareholders. To-day the review of the past is less favourable and the outlook for the future is less settled.

I do not propose to trouble you, as some of those who have taken the chair at bank meetings have found it necessary to do, with any excursion into the political arena or with a discussion of how far we are free from this world-wide depression might have been avoidable in Australia. My experience in public life, which has been a pretty long one, is that valuable as financial knowledge is to statesmen, the more financial institutions can be freed from politics the better for both; though we have, throughout this crisis, spared no effort to assist the Commonwealth Government by every means in our power consistent with the stability of the bank.

Since our last meeting the difficulties which have arisen with regard to sterling and the Australian currency have figured largely in our operations. The necessity under which Australia has been of controlling all London exchange to meet indebtedness on loans payable in the London market has reduced our ordinary exchange operations. There has also been a reduction of general business, conversion of Australian loans, and a reduction of interest. These have combined to reduce profits, and to some extent to alter our balance sheet.

THE TRANSFER TO CURRENCY RESERVE.

In dealing with the balance sheet figures, I should like to explain the transfer of £2,000,000 from the reserve fund to currency reserve. This does not represent a realised loss, but is set aside because we are a British company with our head office in London and, as such, must compile our balance sheet in terms of pounds sterling—consequently the depreciation in relation to sterling of our surplus Australian assets should be provided for. Our Australasian assets can be used to pay our Australasian liabilities, but the surplus assets from our funds here are employed in the business in Australasia and the larger these are, the larger is the amount required to write down the surplus assets in terms of sterling. If and when Australian exchange moves towards parity the amount now specially provided will proportionately become freed; and, should parity be attained, the whole amount will be liberated.

In point of fact, since the date of the balance sheet, the discount on the Australian pound has already been reduced and thus the provision of several hundred thousand pounds of the above £2,000,000 to the reserve fund is rendered practicable. The transfer rests on our opinion, though he would be a bold man who would prophesy what the position of any currency, including sterling, would be six months from now.

BALANCE SHEET FIGURES.

Our general business has expanded. The total of our balance sheet has increased by £2,700,000, as compared with October, 1930. Deposits and current accounts are £2,500,000 higher, while there is nearly £1,000,000 less in interest accounts—the latter movement being a feature of the Australian banks generally have [illegible] and cash balances show an increase of [illegible] securities in Australasia also show an [illegible], but the expansion in this item is [illegible] Treasury Bills which we have the right to re-discount. Liquid assets are over 45 per cent. of all deposits Specie, cash, etc., is nearly 75 per cent. of current accounts and including Treasury Bills which, as mentioned before, we have the right to re-discount, exceeds 100 per cent., so that our liquid funds are more than sufficient to pay off all our current accounts on demand. You will realise that, though the margin of profit is less, there has been no falling off in the balance sheet figures, and the security with which the name of this bank is associated has in no way suffered.

The profit and loss account is not such satisfactory reading as the balance sheet. There has been a large falling off in our gross profits and a reduction in interest rates, due to legislation; and though ultimately this affects both interest received and interest paid, the reduction falls on us at once, but the bank alters the deposit rate only when the deposit matures.

Advances, as the balance sheet shows, have decreased by £550,000 We have felt it right in these anxious days, before computing the amount of our profits, to make special reserves for interest due in respect of trade advances which seem to us to some extent tainted, and it is inevitable that, with general depression, a certain number of accounts, which formerly seemed fully secured, should become suspect. The reservation of interest on this account has affected our gross profits; but it may be hoped that when better times come the greater portion of this interest may be released and become available profit, but I am sure you will agree that in present circumstances it is wiser not to take credit for profits which may never be realised. This is apart altogether from the general writing-off on account of bad debts.

ECONOMIES EFFECTED.

Charges of management have decreased by about £600 during the year. Economies have been effected and our staff was lower by 38 as we have not replaced those retiring on pension or on account of ill-health, but we are bound by the automatic increases of the awards. Since our financial year has closed, a general reduction of 10 per cent. has taken place in Government Awards, and those salaries not affected by Awards have been adjusted accordingly. In this reduction the directors have felt it right to share. (Hear, hear.) The increase in our general expenses is entirely due to a law suit brought against us, in our opinion absolutely unjustifiably, and which, at the plaintiff's own request, has been non-suited with costs to us.

Australasian and London taxes amounting to £324,689 4s. 10d., are now added together, one of the reasons for this being that it is difficult to apportion between the Mother Country and Australasia the amount of relief received in respect of double taxation within the Empire. The reduction in the amount is due to special circumstances connected with the Exchange position, but income tax rates generally have increased considerably both here and in Australasia. One increase only should be noted in this year of economy, namely, £74,000 for the remodelling of our Melbourne branch, to which three storeys have been added, which, as the old building dated from 1876, and was far too small for our business, had been undertaken before the crisis came upon us.

You will notice that the directors have charged to contingency funds the depreciation on our investments. Our balance sheet is dated about three weeks only after this country was forced off the Gold Standard—consequently British investments were practically at their lowest point. Even so, very little was required to write down their book values to market values, and since that date they have fully recovered. Since the date of the balance sheet an appreciation of roughly 60 per cent. of the amount set aside has actually taken place. (Hear, hear.)

INNER RESERVES.

Last year there was a good deal of comment in the Press about inner reserves. They appear under the heading "Bills payable,

etc., including provision for contingencies." It will be seen that the changes which I have detailed in our reserves, which, under whatever name, are all in the balance sheet, emphasise the value of the provision which we have built up in happier times.

In the last forty years' history of the bank these contingency funds have been on three occasions of great value to the bank. In the bank crisis in 1892 our contingency funds were not large, and they were almost entirely utilised in providing for bad debts made during that crisis. During the severe droughts which ended in 1903, some of our large pastoral advances seemed certain to become bad debts and had to be provided for out of the contingency funds, which our additions enabled us to meet. Fortunately, during the good seasons which came after 1903, some of these apparently bad debts were ultimately paid off in full and, as we told the shareholders in March, 1904, the whole cost of the site and buildings of our fine Sydney premises were provided for out of these fortunate recoveries.

Since 1909 we have steadily added to our contingency funds, and as a result we have been able to meet the present exceptional crisis without exhausting our balance of reserve, and, as I have already said, the load placed upon them has already been lightened.

You will, I am sure, realise that, with all the storms around us, a reduction in dividends was inevitable. The 9 per cent., less tax, which we have been able to pay, though considerably less than the dividend of two years ago, is still substantial and, in consequence of the incidence of colonial income tax, is equal to £7 12s. 8d. per cent. to the shareholders.

RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE.

It is difficult to prophesy as to the future. The measures taken by the new Federal Government have, as in this country, restored a measure of confidence. A genuine effort is being made to provide for interest payable abroad. The increase of exports, apart from gold, over imports, which, expressed in sterling, amounts to £27,000,000 for 1931, is an exceedingly good showing. The prospects of Empire trade due to our new departure in tariff are reassuring, but the period of convalescence so far as earning power is concerned must necessarily be considerable.

Authorities claim that 1932 once over, we shall have passed our most troublous time, but this can only be achieved if all parties co-operate on sound lines. Though I have deliberately avoided anything in the nature of criticism, I can assure you that no body of men realise more than the directors of this bank the danger of new fiscal doctrines which are fatal to the security of States as well as of bankers. Proceedings such as ours to-day are scanned in interested quarters, and it will greatly assist us in the pressing responsibility which we have to incur in these difficult times if our shareholders will support us not merely by their confidence but by their reticence.

I have endeavoured to put before you fully the position of the bank. I hope for your unanimous support, and move that the report and accounts be accepted. (Applause.)

Mr Harold Nelson seconded the motion.

SHAREHOLDERS' REMARKS.

Mr F. Tomkinson said he would like to express his extreme gratification, and also that of other shareholders who were not present, at the results of the past year. They thought the bank had done extremely well in a most difficult period. He also desired to thank the chairman for the lucid speech he had delivered.

Mr E. Levy said he was sorry he could not repeat his congratulations of last year on the report and balance sheet, but he did not think the directors expected it. He was quite satisfied that they had weathered, as far as it was possible, the peculiar circumstances they had had to encounter during the last twelve months. He felt sure that the state of trade was now a great deal better in Australia than it was at the time of the publication of the balance sheet.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Mr Frederick V. C. Livingstone-Learmonth, D.S.O., Mr Harold Nelson and Mr Charles Edward Barnett as directors.

Mr John Sanderson seconded and the resolution was agreed to unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. J. H. Butterworth, seconded by Mr. G. W. Jones, the auditors (Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Company) were re-appointed.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICIALS AND STAFF.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the officers of the bank in Australia and in London and said they must all be aware that the bank had done well under difficult circumstances. The conditions in Australia had been extremely trying to the general manager in the Commonwealth and his staff. The proprietors had every reason to be satisfied at the admirable way and the resource with which the staff had met a very difficult period. He added that he, of course, included their head office manager, Mr Godward, and the London staff, in the resolution.

Mr W. A. Welch, who seconded the motion, mentioned that he was in Australia last year, and had been connected with that country for many years. He had also been a customer of the bank for over forty years, and he thought he could say it stood very well in Australia and that they had a good staff.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE BOARD.

A shareholder then proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors and said he could assure the board that they had the fullest confidence of the proprietors.

Mr A. J. Waley seconded, and said that last year, when he proposed a vote of thanks to the directors, he expressed the hope that the optimism of the chairman would be justified. He thought to a certain extent it had been, because when they heard that the balance of trade was so largely in favour of Australia they must feel that conditions were on the move towards an improvement. In addition to their thanks, he also said last year that the directors were entitled to their sympathy. When they realised how world-wide the crisis has been, and how the responsibilities, doubts and anxieties of directors had been increased, they had every reason to thank them and to renew their confidence in them. At the same time, they could express their sympathy with the directors, who still had a very difficult time to overcome. He believed these difficulties would be overcome with the same satisfaction to the shareholders in the future that they had been in the past. (Hear, hear.) He would also like, having had business relations with the bank, to endorse what the chairman had said with regard to the staff. He did not think there was any bank where one met with a greater amount of courtesy and efficiency than the Bank of Australasia.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman briefly replied, and the proceedings then terminated.

BRITISH ALUMINIUM COMPANY, LIMITED.

USE FOR COOKING UTENSILS.

The twenty-second ordinary general meeting of the British Aluminium Company, Limited, was held, on the 31st ultimo, at Winchester House, London, E.C.

Mr R. W. Cooper, M.C., J.P. (the Chairman), said that the available profit, at £343,631, was £44,054 less than that earned in 1930, but it was to be noted that the trading profit had fallen off by £71,670, and that interest on deposits and dividends from investments had offset this drop to the extent of £27,616. The trading profit was the lowest they had experienced for ten years, but this was not to be wondered at, considering the extremely difficult conditions under which British industries had had to be carried on recently. The markets of the world were largely closed to British producers by high and ever-increasing protection, while Britain retained free entry for any and every importer. The recent duty of 10 per cent. on most imports, including aluminium, should, on balance, be of some small benefit to the industry, but that duty was still much inferior to the permanent protection enjoyed by the large producers of the metal in their own territories in other parts of the world. It was to be hoped that our present Government would speedily protect a national industry which directly and indirectly contributed so largely to employment of British labour.

It was pleasing to be able to record increasing and widening interest in certain applications of the metal and the development of further new uses. The sales of the metal for older and well-established uses had been relatively well maintained, considering the prevailing trade depression. Among such uses he would especially mention the use of aluminium for cooking utensils. The great value of the metal for this application lay in the fact that it had no deleterious effect upon foodstuffs or the human frame. The evidence of scientists was overwhelmingly in favour of the absolute non-toxicity of aluminium, and two medical journals whose names were household words, which had satisfied themselves by practical experiment and by studying the scientific evidence on the point, had endorsed this opinion.

It was not possible to offer any prediction as to the future, but if the industry was assisted by the fiscal policy of the Government, and if other conditions did not change for the worse, the board had every hope of maintaining, and possibly improving, the present position of the company.

The report was unanimously adopted, and a dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares was declared.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.

BETTER OUTLOOK IN INDIA.

SIR CHARLES McLEOD'S SPEECH.

The ordinary general meeting of the National Bank of India, Limited, was held at the Wesleyan Hall, Bishopsgate, London, E.C., on Thursday, March 31st, Sir Charles C. McLeod, Bart. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, I should like, before we start the meeting, to tell you that we have among us to-day the High Commissioner of India, and we welcome his presence here. (Applause.)

The General Manager (Mr Ross Munro) then read the notice convening the meeting, and the auditors' report.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, The report of the directors and the accounts to December 31, 1931, have been in your hands for some days, and I presume you will allow me as usual to take them as read. (Agreed.)

As was to be expected and in accordance with general banking experience, our balance-sheet figures show a reduction, the principal on the liabilities side being that in deposits, chiefly due to the fact that the Government of India was offering more attractive rates of interest for Treasury bills and short loans than it suited the banks to pay. It is possible that some part of the reduction may also be accounted for by the less prosperous condition of depositors generally. The reserve fund has been reduced by a sum of £800,000, and to this matter I will refer in a few minutes. An item of loans payable appears in the balance sheet. This was a temporary loan contracted principally for the finance of gold shipments from India during December, which were very heavy, and at that time it would not have been a wise policy to have disposed of any of our securities at depreciated prices. Acceptances are down and reflect the poor state of the import trade into India.

CASH AND INVESTMENTS.

On the assets side cash is lower and investments show a reduction. The reduction in the latter is partly accounted for by the depreciation in the value of our securities which have been written down to and under prices ruling at December 31st by the amount taken from reserve. Bills of exchange and discounts, loans, &c., show very little variation from the figures of a year ago.

You will observe that we have made ample provision for the fall in gilt-edged securities of which our investments wholly consist. Our balance sheet must show the actual position as at December 31st last. You are aware of the considerable rise which has taken place in the value of these securities both here and in India since that date. Our securities, as we have stated in the report, are all realisable and mostly short-dated, but we have adopted the policy of writing down the whole of them to or under market value as at December 31st last. Whilst the amount required to adjust values at December 31st was a considerable one, you will observe that the reserve is still left at the satisfactory figure of £2,200,000—a figure exceeding the total of our paid-up capital by £200,000.

A STRONG BALANCE SHEET.

A reduction in the total figures was inevitable, but our balance sheet is a strong one with large liquid assets, and is a remarkably satisfactory document from the depositors' point of view, and in proof of this fact I need only draw your attention to the total of readily realisable assets in the shape of cash, securities and bills of exchange totalling some £23,400,000 against a total of deposits and other accounts of £27,000,000, but at the same time we would prefer [illegible] to the figures shown and an increase in the figures which would indicate improved trade and the finance required for same, which often all in our legitimate business. I told you a year ago that it would take a long time to get back to normal conditions, but I still think a recovery eventuates we are in a strong position to take advantage of any such improvement.

It is unnecessary for me to say that a bank's balance sheet must reflect the conditions of business where it operates. Practically all balance sheets show reductions indicative of reduced operations, and [illegible] our principal business is with a country which, while suffering to a certain extent with the rest of the world from low prices, has in addition been in the throes of political [illegible] our balance-sheet figures must be [illegible]

PROFITS AND DIVIDEND.

[illegible] the expenses of management, [illegible] reductions on the previous year and in view of economies effected the accounts presented a year hence should reflect a further reduction. I need scarcely say that the directors have the full and loyal support of the staff in our efforts to produce satisfactory results.

The year's operations have resulted in a net profit of £470,018 18s. 7d., compared with £480,329 4s. 4d. for the previous year. With the amount brought in from the previous year the available total is £748,809 19s. 6d. We have already dealt with £200,000 of this sum in payment of an interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, and we now propose a further dividend at the same rate less income tax, to add £50,000 to the officers' pension fund, to transfer £20,000 to contingency account and to carry forward a balance of £278,809 19s. 6d.

When we last met I referred to the question of continuing to pay our dividend free of tax. Since then this matter has become more acute, and in common with many banks and companies, we have had to reconsider it in view of the further burden imposed by an increase in income tax to 5s. in the £, coming as it has done during a period of reduced earning power. The dividend paid by us in September last indicated the directors' attitude in this matter and on this occasion we again propose a dividend on a less tax basis. You will, however, observe from the report that in respect of the interim dividend the bank has borne the extra 6d. in the £ imposed by the Finance No. 2 (1931) Act. This is, of course, equivalent to a small increase in the dividend declared and will, I feel sure, be quite welcome. Let us hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be able to afford some relief in taxation in the forthcoming Budget. I need scarcely tell you that all bad and doubtful debts are fully provided for.

Inasmuch as we have during the past year passed through a period of unprecedented difficulties, of which India has had more than her share, I trust you will agree with me that the results placed before you are satisfactory. (Hear, hear.)

THE EXPORT OF GOLD.

One of the most interesting features in connection with the trade of India during the past year or so has been the large export of gold. In normal times gold movements were largely influenced by the exports of produce. In lean years there were exports and in good years there were large imports. Thus, we have it that in 1921, a lean year, gold was exported to a value of about £15,000,000, and in 1925, a fat year, gold was imported to a value of about £45,750,000. Recent exports have, however, been occasioned partly through the low prices obtainable for produce, but mainly on account of the high premium which has been obtainable since Great Britain went off the Gold Standard in September last. The net exports of gold during the year 1931 were about £26,000,000, and since then further gold to the value of about £17,000,000 has been exported. Just recently exports have been falling off, possibly due to the boycotting of the Bullion Exchange in Bombay, and perhaps also to the fact of its being the harvest season when cultivators are able to realise their produce. Various estimates have been made as to the amount of gold held in India. These vary from £5,600,000,000 to a figure well over that amount, but it is impossible to make any proper estimate except that the sum must be an enormous one, held both in hoards and in the form of ornaments.

These gold exports which commenced on a large scale after Great Britain went off the Gold Standard have greatly benefited the Government of India's finances. From January up to September, Government had to sell Reverse Councils in order to support exchange and during that period sold £17,457,000 in this way. From October up to the end of December when gold exports were heavy, Government remitted by way of Council Bills £19,812,000, and since then they have remitted a further sum of about £20,000,000. Being in this happy position, the Indian Government repaid an outstanding loan in this market of about £15,000,000 which fell due in January, and have also notified that they will repay a loan of £6,000,000 which falls due in June.

Silver imports into India were on a reduced scale, being £7,077,000, as against £9,180,000 in 1930. There was a recovery from the lowest point touched in 1931 of 12d. to the highest point of 21 1/16d. in that year. The Imperial Bank rate moved up to 8 per cent. in September, but has since been reduced to 6 per cent. The average for 1931 was 7·046 as against 5·887 in 1930.

INDIAN TRADE FIGURES.

The balance of trade in favour of India for the year 1931 was Rs. 61 crores as against Rs. 45 crores for the previous year. These figures are arrived at by taking into account the values of the imports and exports of merchandise and the imports and exports of treasure. Last year the exports of merchandise and net exports of treasure amounted together to about Rs. 196 crores and the imports of merchandise to about Rs. 135 crores.

It may interest you to have some comparative figures of some of the principal commodities. The total exports from India (including re-exports) have fallen from 257 crores in 1930 to 169 crores in 1931, while imports into India show a decline from 184 crores to 135 crores. Cotton exports from India fell from 60 crores to 36 crores, but imports into India rose to 7 crores, as against 4 crores in 1930, of which East Africa contributed over 3 crores worth. Imports of cotton piece-goods and yarns dropped from 36 crores in 1930 to 18 crores in 1931, the United Kingdom share being only 8 crores, as against 21 crores in 1930. The total jute exports (raw and manufactured) fell from 53 crores in 1930 to 33 crores in 1931. The exports of wheat were down to 23,000 tons, as against 193,000 tons the previous year. The Burma rice crop was about the same as the previous year, but prices were on a very low scale. India absorbed over a third of the crop.

The Bombay cotton trade has shown some improvement and cotton mills have reaped some benefit. The boycott of British goods has been and still continues to be, insistent, although there is evidence that an improvement is slowly but surely making headway.

There has been no outstanding feature in the jute manufacturing industry in Bengal. In spite of the curtailment of output by the closing down of 15 per cent. of looms and the continuance of working 40 hours per week only and a substantial reduction in the stock of manufactured goods, there has been no response from consuming countries and the outlook at present is not encouraging. A short crop of jute has not resulted in any substantial increase in price.

The coal industry shows no material improvement and coal prices are still at a low and unremunerative level.

PLIGHT OF THE TEA INDUSTRY.

The tea industry has suffered a serious set back and prices now ruling are in most cases under cost of production. This state of affairs has been brought about by excessive imports of tea from Java and Sumatra, these countries having increased their crop since 1910 by 400 per cent., whereas the out-turn in that period from India and Ceylon only increased by 65 and 39 per cent. respectively. The outlook for India and Ceylon estates, representing some £76,000,000 of British capital, is nothing short of desperate unless some measure of protection in the shape of discriminating duties is introduced in the next Budget. Assam in particular, so largely dependent on the tea industry, will feel the situation acutely.

In East Africa conditions continue unfavourable and a further fall in commodity prices does not help that colony to recover any measure of prosperity.

Conditions in India are still disturbing, and although the outlook is more reassuring, there is a long way to go before we can get back to normal times. The efforts of the Round Table Conferences are still in the melting-pot, but we are glad to notice that there is evidence of more respect for law and order, and if established firmly, and picketing and boycotting cease, we may look to a return of prosperity for that great continent.

TRIBUTE TO MANAGERS AND STAFF.

The sustained effort and efficiency of our managers and staff, both at home and abroad, have in no small measure contributed to our efforts to show in a most difficult year the satisfactory results that the figures before you give, and to them must be awarded full credit and our appreciation of their good work.

I now beg to propose: "That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1931, be received and adopted, and that a dividend for the six months to December 31, 1931, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum be paid on the shares of the company registered at this date, the same to be payable, less income tax, on and after April 1, 1932."

The resolution will be seconded by Mr Langford James, our deputy chairman, and before I ask you to vote upon it, I will be glad to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

Mr. R. Langford James (deputy chairman), seconded the resolution.

Mr Joseph Nissim (late legal adviser to the Government of Bombay) said that the shareholders were very pleased to see present a distinguished representative of India in the High Commissioner, all the more because he had completed, after two years of strenuous labours, his gigantic inquiry into the banking position in India (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors (Sir John P. Hewett, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E., and Mr W. Shakspeare) were re-elected, and the auditors (Messrs Cooper Brothers and Company and Messrs W. A. Brown and Company) having been reappointed, a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff concluded the proceedings.

LONDON LIFE.

CLERGY MUTUAL AND METROPOLITAN.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

SUCCESS OF NEW VALUATION METHOD.

The ordinary general meetings of the above companies were held on Wednesday, March 30th, at 81, King William Street, London, E.C. Mr Reginald B. Jacomb (president of the London Life Association, Limited), in opening the proceedings, referred to the appointment as a director of Mr Maurice Hely-Hutchinson, a partner in the well-known firm of Messrs Robert Fleming and Company, and said that his wide investment experience would, no doubt, be of great value.

After referring to the easy conditions under which life assurance has been carried on since the war, the President said:—Now we have had to face a financial test more severe than the present generation has known and I think you will agree that this is an occasion on which we should take our members into our fullest confidence.

We have alluded in the report to the fact that although the system of a yearly valuation and distribution has many advantages over the usual quinquennial valuation, it is obviously a greater strain to have to provide for heavy depreciation in one year than if it is spread over a period of five years. In 1931 depreciation amounted to £1,631,000, representing some 7½ per cent. on the total funds, towards which we brought foward some £917,000 in addition to our valuation reserves.

DEPRECIATION OF SECURITIES.

He added that in the case of a life office with contracts lasting over so many years, depreciation is no more than an inconvenience except to the extent that it may be a rough measure of possible loss of income.

He then gave his reasons for thinking that it was reasonably safe to use a rate of 4 per cent. interest in calculating the liabilities. He said that "Taking a table of mortality which closely follows our own experience and making full provision for future expenses, our actuary has made a valuation of all our contracts and finds that we have funds in hand sufficient to provide for satisfactory increases in rates of reduction and for reversionary bonuses as set out in the report."

BONUS RESERVE VALUATION.

He explained that in using what is known as a bonus reserve valuation the association was breaking away from a convention which at any time is open to criticism on the grounds of lack of adaptability to changing circumstances. There was no wish to make any claim to be pioneers and he gladly paid his compliments to the "Old Equitable," whose actuary, Mr Elderton, was, he thought, the first to base a published quinquennial valuation on this method.

Banking in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk. 428,000,000.

TOTAL ASSETS (31/1/32): Fmk. 3,899,061,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND

Established 1889.

THE YEAR'S RESULTS.

The President continued:—We have written down values of securities by £1,000,000 and have transferred £350,000 to the investment fluctuation fund, thus bringing it up to £750,000. We have, as a result of £343,626, declared reversionary bonuses and increases in rates of reduction which are consistent with our valuation and with the reasonable prospect of their maintenance. We have carried forward as unappropriated the large figure of £375,887, after taking into account reserves of £300,000, we have a considerable sum in hand for future contingencies. It is satisfactory to compare the cost of bonuses declared of £343,626 with the surplus of the year, excluding investments, of £555,423.

With regard to the individual funds, we have in the case of the London Life declared an increase of two in the rates of reduction for policies effected under that system. This is the same increase as was given last year. For reversionary bonus policies we have declared a compound reversionary bonus of 35s. against 40s. last year. In the case of the Clergy Mutual the reversionary bonus is 3 per cent. both for whole life and endowment assurances, with the usual increase in the case of the former for lives over 65. Last year the bonus was £4 per cent.

The increase in the rates of abatement for the Metropolitan is again three.

We have completed in the year net new assurances of £2,730,885. Although this figure is below our record of 1930 it has never been surpassed in any previous year. The ratio of our expenses of management to premiums has, I am glad to say, decreased from £5 12s. 7d. per cent. in 1930 to £5 7s. 9d. only in 1931, and I think we may consider these two results together and be well satisfied. It is hardly necessary for me to stress the advantage to our members of the saving to them from the low rate of expense, but some may not realise that, in comparison with the average expense ratio of all ordinary companies, it represents a saving of over £120,000 per annum.

The President concluded his address with a tribute to the services of Mr Trouncer, Mr Evans and the staff.

The formal resolutions were then put and carried and the proceedings terminated.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

A YEAR OF UNPARALLELED DIFFICULTY.

SIR MONTAGUE TURNER'S REVIEW OF POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The seventy-eighth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China was held at the bank's premises, 38 Bishopsgate, London, E.C. Sir Montagu Cavish Turner (the Chairman) presiding.

Mr W. E. Preston (Chief Manager) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Since I addressed you in this room twelve months ago, the world has passed through a financial crisis of unparalleled magnitude and much has happened which would have seemed impossible in normal times. We have seen a continuance of world-wide trade depression with large increases in the ranks of the unemployed in most nations of the world. We have seen an unreasonable want of confidence in the international money markets, resulting in a flight from nearly every currency each in its turn, involving exchange restrictions and tariff barriers ever increasing. All these have combined to cause great anxiety and bewilderment to those engaged in financial operations, both in the East and the West.

Perhaps the most important of the events in the past year, certainly affecting the interests of the Bank, has been the departure by Great Britain from the gold standard. This was no willing action on the part of our Government. We were driven from the standard by the persistent and heavy withdrawals of our gold reserves by foreign lenders in this market. We have now a world divided into gold standard countries, such as the United States, the Philippines, France, Germany, Holland, Java, Siam—and the non-gold standard, such as Great Britain and India, Australia, Sweden, Denmark and Norway. The Chartered Bank, with its branches in the East and in America, has to deal not only with sterling currencies, but also with those on a gold standard basis, e.g., gold dollars, francs, pesos, pilkes, and taels. That we should have outstandings in these currencies when Great Britain suddenly went off the gold standard was inevitable if we were to pursue the ordinary course of business, and to be in the exchange market for such business as might be offering. To be out of the market would mean the Chartered Bank would, during the time, was not functioning as an exchange bank; and as it happened that when the momentous decision was made by Great Britain to abandon the gold standard, we were faced with liabilities in respect of commitments involving risks in gold currencies, and to meet the risks occasioned by these commitments consequent on the depreciation of our currency, a transfer of one million pounds from our Head Office was found to be necessary.

INDIA.

Conditions in India since I last addressed you have improved. Business has revived in the Punjab, but the political situation in Bengal, which has been dealt with a statesmanlike prudence and firmness, is not yet in a fair way to becoming normal. Bombay, unfortunately, is still a storm centre, but even there we look for an improvement, and we may reasonably hope that the [illegible] and racial dissension fostered by interested [illegible] are signs that the business [illegible] must have been exceedingly heavy, would welcome a return to peaceful trading. Meanwhile, the Ahmedabad Mills are benefiting by the misfortune of the Bombay Mills, which are in a sad plight. Apart from a terrorist area which seems to be concentrated in Bengal, it looks as though the Congress Movement is losing strength, and as a result civil disobedience is on the decline. This improvement may be due to a consideration of policy, but there is a real desire on the part of the British Government to help India reach her political goal, and this object would be advanced by India settling her communal differences—thus bringing about goodwill and good order in the country.

A remarkable feature in the world's financial transactions during the past 12 months has been shipments of gold from India's hoards of that metal. Shipments which commenced in September last and up to date amount to £42 millions, have been fairly steady, and we may take it as long as a remunerative price is offered to the sellers in India they will continue. The gold has been drawn out from hoards by the attractive profit offered. It has been a blessing in many respects and has benefited India in several ways. The holders in many cases needed cash to meet their requirements, either for agricultural or other purposes, and that cash has been obtained on very favourabale terms. The Indian Government has been able to remit the funds requi ed in this country by the Secretary of State, and provision has been made for sterling loans falling due here. Exchange has been kept wonderfully steady at the rate of 1s. 6d. and a fraction, and India has been able to show a favourable balance of trade in spite of the low prices prevailing in the consuming countries which has made business with Indian products most difficult. As a result of these operations and of the financial conditions generally as disclosed in the Budget speech at Delhi on the 7th instant, Sir George Schuster was justified in concluding his speech with these words: "We may fairly claim that there is no country in the world whose intrinsic financial position is sounder or whose ultimate prospect of economic advance in the future is more bright."

CHINA.

The unhappy differences between China and Japan have had a most detrimental effect on the trade of Shanghai—and, indeed, on the trade of the country generally. The effects of the boycott of Japanese goods which was the main reason for the starting of hostilities have meant colossal losses not only to Japan, but great hardships to Chinese traders as well. Conditions in general in China are now much worse than they were even six months ago. The fact that six provinces with a population of 150,000,000 are seriously overrun by Communists, which virtually means war between Communists and the provincial authorities, naturally restricts the volume of trade, and when it is considered that the Government had 200,000 troops fighting the Communists in Kiangsi during the first half of 1931 with unsatisfactory results, it can easily be understood that agriculture, the organisation of trade, and the purchasing power of the people suffered accordingly. The impetus which should have been given to exports by the cheaper silver prices in China did not operate fully because, owing to the interior insecurity due

to banditry and Communism, to excessive military and other taxation, and to the decline in the efficiency of communications, the cost of bringing produce to the coast has become almost prohibitive. Added to her political troubles, China has suffered from the appalling disaster caused by the floods last summer in the Yangtsze valley—a disaster almost unprecedented when the area of devastation is considered and the huge numbers, estimated at 10 millions at least, who, as a consequence of these floods, are reported to be absolutely destitute. I need not go into further detail. That is fully set out in the letter which appeared in *The Times* of the 21st instant, and shows the need for early and prompt action on the part of those who can help to give the assistance needed. It would be a matter of great satisfaction to the friends of China and Japan if the present outstanding differences could be amicably adjusted at a Round Table Conference, though negotiations may be protracted. Meantime it is eminently satisfactory that active hostilities have apparently come to an end.

JAPAN.

Trade in Japan has suffered badly from the boycott of her products in China. On the other hand, Japan has benefited by the growing demand for her textiles, especially in India and Malaya. Probably, cheapness is a telling factor. In any case, the increase of her sales of cloth and the decrease of sales of Lancashire goods is very remarkable. Japan has also suffered by the absence of demand for her silk by American buyers. Her import trade has declined mainly owing to high tariffs deliberately imposed to restrict the consumption of foreign goods and create a favourable balance of trade.

FUTURE OF GOLD AND THE £.

The future of gold is very obscure indeed, and America, with the largest holding of the metal, will be the dictating factor at no distant date. With a budgetary deficit for the current year estimated at $2,000,000,000, coupled with a big demand for currency which must ensue if President Hoover's new financial scheme is to succeed, a policy of deliberate inflation may be put into operation to meet the situation. If a similar inflation should occur in France (where there is also a huge gap in the Budget), a general fall in the value of gold is inevitable. Withdrawals of gold would immediately ensue if either or both countries went in for a policy of inflation on a large scale, and if these exports went to big dimensions, necessitating an embargo put on them, it would be tantamount to the country concerned going off the gold standard.

One final observation on this subject: our pressing need in this country is not a high exchange value for the pound, but a stable exchange value and a fixed internal value; so far, the internal value has been preserved because the pound at 13s. or 15s. has purchased as much food, clothing, and other necessaries as it did at 20s.—due to the fact that there has been no inflation. With, however, a pound worth 13s. one month and perhaps 16s. or 14s. the next, it is quite impossible for traders to make forward contracts—in a word, the pound must be pegged down at some definite figure, and it is good news that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is alive to this pressing need in the interests of all concerned who have overseas commitments.

SILVER.

The range of silver prices during the period under review was the widest for many years—and we have witnessed a new low record with silver at a shilling an ounce, while the highest point touched was 21 1/4d. Vigorous steps to secure the adoption of some method of revalorisation and subsequent stability have so far failed to provoke official action—which must obviously be of an international nature—but the sponsors of the movement who are in earnest, and seem to be actuated by altruistic motives, have the courage of their convictions and are still pursuing their objective.

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

As regards the future, taking a general view of the position affecting the well-being of this bank, I can claim that prospects have distinctly improved and the outlook is hopeful. We have gone very carefully into the matter of overhead charges; economies compatible with efficiency are being carried out, and the Chartered Bank should prosper in the future as it has in the past.

In conclusion, I would on your behalf, and of the board of directors, convey our sincere thanks to Mr Preston and his colleagues at home for their devoted labours and unwearied attention to the interests of this bank during the past year. Our thanks are also due to the staff at home and abroad for their loyalty and good work on behalf of the institution to which they are proud to belong.

I now move: "That the report now submitted, together with the balance sheet and profit and loss account, be approved and adopted."

Sir William Henry Neville Goschen, Bt., K.B.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried *nem. con.*

PROVINCIAL CINEMATOGRAPH THEATRES, LIMITED.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

The twenty-second annual general meeting of Provincial Cinematograph Theatres, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at 142-150, Wardour Street, London.

Mr Mark Ostrer (the chairman) said that, taking into consideration the unprecedented depression during the period under review, he thought the shareholders were to be congratulated upon having had such a successful year. The revenue for the year amounted to £485,605, and, adding the balance brought in, there was an available balance of £600,326, out of which the board recommended a dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, leaving £130,373 to be carried forward.

There was no doubt that the picture theatre had become an integral part of the lives of the majority of the population, but the economies introduced by the National Government, coupled with increased taxation, had considerably reduced the spending capacity of the public. The company, together with its subsidiaries, had collected on behalf of the Government approximately £480,000 for entertainments tax during he year. Since the increased tax came into operation in November last, until the end of their financial year, the amount paid in tax had increased by about £20,000 as compared with the same period last year. There could be no doubt whatever that the increased tax had seriously affected the takings at the company's theatres.

Since the end of the financial year, The Gaumont Palace, Peckham, and The Gaumont Palace, Hammersmith, had been opened, the latter being one of the largest—if not the largest—and most modern in London, accommodating approximately 4,000.

As to the future, there appeared to be signs of a slight improvement in trade, which should lead to further employment, and, provided this was maintained, and they were relieved of some portion of the present crushing taxation, he thought the company would be one of the first to benefit. They owned first-class theatres, which provided the public with a widening form of entertainment at reasonable prices, and their financial position was very sound. Shareholders would be particularly pleased to learn that an increasing number of British films had been shown at the theatres—far in excess of the number they were required by law to show—and it was very gratifying to know that these films were greatly appreciated by their patrons.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

MIDLAND ELECTRIC CORPORATION FOR POWER DISTRIBUTION, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND MAINTAINED—INCREASE IN DOMESTIC CONSUMERS.

EFFECTS OF DEPRESSION ON HEAVY INDUSTRIES.

The thirty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution, Ltd., was held, on the 1st instant, at Liverpool.

Mr G. H. Nisbett, M.Eng., J.P. (chairman of the company), presided.

Mr C. Heathcock, F.C.I.S. (secretary), having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman proposed the adoption of the report of the directors and the statement of accounts for the year ending December 31, 1931. He said:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—I regret to have to commence the meeting by a reference to the death of a director. Mr J. A. Smith died suddenly on May 13, 1931. He had been a director for a comparatively short time, but had earned high esteem for his business ability and the genial and pleasant manner in which he assisted the board.

ACCOUNTS.

You have had the opportunity of studying the directors' report and accounts for some days, and I assume it is your wish that they be taken as read. (Agreed.) The accounts are again printed in considerable detail, and it appears to me only to be necessary to refer to those items which are new or call for special explanation.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

The year's expenditure of £65,765 is almost entirely due to mains and services for connecting new consumers, or strengthening existing provisions to meet additional domestic load. The item for transformers shows a credit on the year. The actual expenditure for new engines was £2,800, but some large transformers, returned from power consumers who have changed over to high-tension bulk supply, are responsible for the year's transactions being shown as a credit.

A new item appears in "Installations and Apparatus on Hire Purchase." This refers to assisted schemes for the installation of wiring and apparatus. The item of £17,597 is made up by bringing together expenditure previously appearing under other headings. A further sum of £2,897 has been expended during the year. Over 1,000 consumers have now been helped by spreading the first cost of installation over periods of three years, and, with prepayment meter installations, over an average of seven years. Interest is charged on outstanding balances. The expenditure on meters is larger than usual. This is partly due to the record number of consumers connected, and also to the number of prepayment meters used, which are more expensive to purchase.

REVENUE.

You will observe the revenue from sale of electricity shows a reduction of £7,000 notwithstanding the substantial increase in the number of domestic consumers connected during the year. This is entirely due to the acute depression in the heavy industries in the company's area of supply. The reduction in the cost of electricity purchased is due, chiefly, to a reduction in the scale of charges for bulk supply purchased from the West Midlands Joint Electricity Authority. The Authority has now co-ordinated the supply from its three generating stations, and is obtaining the maximum efficiency from the existing plant.

Secondly, it is due to a reduction in the number of units purchased.

The new item—Cost of Change over of Sundry Services—has been explained in the printed report, and it only remains to state that the continuation of this charge over is dependent on an extension of the company's right to supply in Wednesbury beyond 1940.

PROVISION FOR BAD DEBTS.

The increased provision for bad debts reflects the special difficulties of industry at the present time.

INCREASED CHARGES.

The expenses of the Electricity Commissioners show an increase due to their additional charges. It is expected that this item will increase considerably over the next few years. This is a statutory obligation which cannot be avoided. The expenditure should ultimately be for the good of the electricity supply industry.

BALANCE SHEET.

The balance sheet requires no explanation, other than to call attention to the fact that we have written down the market value of investments, which has been necessitated by the present state of the money market.

DIVIDEND AND CARRY-FORWARD.

Turning to the front page of the accounts, it will be seen that profits have been maintained. To a profit of £140,164 has to be added a balance brought forward of £31,937, making a total of £172,101.

From this it is proposed to deduct:—For depreciation, £35,072; for investment reserve, £10,000; for general reserve, £30,000; for preference dividend, £14,000; for interim dividend of 2½ per cent., £17,500.

These items total £106,572, and leave a disposable balance of £65,529.

From this it is proposed to pay a further dividend of 5½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward the balance of £27,029 16s. 3d. to next year.

EXTENSION OF TENURE.

In 1929 the company first submitted proposals for a consolidation Order extending its period of tenure. After considerable negotiations an Order was drafted suggesting an initial reduction of 10 per cent. from all charges for electricity to the public, and thereafter variations in costs, plus or minus, taking the 1928 figures as a basis, were to be handed on to the consumer. A large majority of the Local Authorities supported this Order, but two of them raised a legal point that prices should be related to dividends and not to costs, and this was upheld.

It then became necessary to draft a new Order on standard lines, in which charges were related to divisible profits. This has now been done, and the draft deposited. The draft provides for a differentiation between the funds of the company used in the undertaking and its free reserves.

The capital of the company nominally allocated to the undertaking is fixed at a commencing figure of £900,000, carrying a standard divisible profit at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum. An additional ½ per cent. is permitted on such original capital for the first ten years if such additional profit can be made without an increase of prices.

PROFITS AND PRICES.

Should excess profits be made they are to be used to reduce the prices charged, but the company may retain a quarter of 1 per cent. additional profit for each reduction of 2½ per cent. from the prices scheduled in the Order. It is proposed to retain the free reserves, or undistributed profits of the company, which amount to £200,000, and to use the income therefrom to supplement the income derived from the undertaking under the terms of the Special Order.

Our undertaking would, in the ordinary course of events, be subject to purchase in 1940 at its then value without allowance for goodwill. The draft Order offers us an opportunity to continue our activities and our present standard of dividend for a considerable period beyond that date.

A large measure of agreement has been reached with the Conference of Local Authorities, although some points still remain to be cleared, and negotiations to this end are continuing.

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

It is difficult to forecast the position with regard to power supply. Any revival in trade is bound to improve the output, as the company's power consumers cover an exceptionally wide range of industries. At the moment we are slightly in advance of last year.

The domestic load still offers good prospects. The use of wireless from the mains, and of small electrical domestic labour-saving devices, is helping to attract consumers who might otherwise have been content to do without electricity. At the same time lighting consumers are being educated in the advantages electricity can offer beyond its use merely for lighting purposes.

During the present year we propose to develop the company's rural area, and extensions are in hand to supply Seisdon, Trysull and Claverley.

LOYAL SERVICE.

In conclusion, I desire to express, on behalf of the board, our thanks to the management, staff and workers for the loyal service they have given throughout the year, and I feel that you will also desire to be associated with it.

I now beg to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1931, as certified by the company's auditors, be received, approved and adopted."

The report and accounts were duly approved.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND MAINTAINED AT 6 PER CENT.

RECORD NUMBER OF CONSUMERS.

The forty-fourth annual general meeting of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Co., Ltd., was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the Central Station Hotel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Mr Robert P. Sloan, C.B.E., the chairman and managing director, presided.

The notice convening the meeting was read by Mr M. Short (joint secretary), and the auditors' report was also read.

The Chairman said: The proposed amalgamation of companies was dealt with in considerable detail during the course of my speech last year. In order to obtain the necessary authority for this amalgamation a Bill was deposited in Parliament on November 27th last. In January and February of this year extraordinary general meetings of the various companies concerned were held, and the necessary resolutions, providing for the transfer to this company of the undertakings of certain of its subsidiary companies, were approved. As you are aware, it is intended to alter the name of the company to the North-Eastern Electric Supply Company, Limited, the reason for this being that the present name would no longer be appropriate in view of the fact that, after the amalgamation, the company will hold statutory powers and operate throughout the major portions of the counties of Northumberland and Durham, and a large portion of North Yorkshire.

The present position with regard to the Bill is as follows:—In the House of Commons, where the Bill was introduced, four petitions only were lodged against it. We were able to dispose of three of these prior to going before the Parliamentary Committee—the remaining petition being that of the Newcastle Corporation. After a hearing of a day and a half the preamble of the Bill was found by the Committee to be proved. The next step will be that, probably in the month of May, the Bill will come before a Committee of the House of Lords, and we confidently anticipate that the measure will receive Royal Assent about July or August of this year.

Good progress has been made during the past year in regard to the standardisation of frequency throughout the North-East Coast area.

1931 RESULTS.

With regard to the working results for the year, our total connections have amounted to 32,888 horse-power (h.p.), the corresponding figure for 1930 being 27,675 h.p., so that there has been a substantial increase in the rate at which we have secured new business. The profit amounted to £857,866, compared with £913,741 for the previous year.

In the early part of last year we considerably reduced our charges for lighting and domestic supplies, and I stated, at the last annual meeting, that these reductions represented concessions, to our then consumers, of about £49,000 per annum. As these reductions did not come into operation until April, 1931, they affected the results of the year under review to the extent of about £36,000. They will, of course, enable us to obtain certain additional business, but, in the comparatively short time they have been in operation, we have not yet reaped the full benefit which is likely to accrue therefrom, and this, coupled with the falling-off in sales in certain other directions, accounts for the reduction in our gross profit.

The directors have again transferred from profit to reserves sums totalling £250,000, and recommend the same rate of ordinary dividend as that of last year—namely, 6 per cent. per annum. This will necessitate drawing upon the sum brought forward to the extent of £45,428, and will leave £71,240 to be carried forward to the current year.

During the year trading conditions showed a further decline, which was most noticeable in the shipyards, marine engineering works and general engineering works. In the case of shipbuilding and marine engineering our sales of electrical energy during 1931, due to further depression in that section, showed a reduction on those of the previous year of no less than 45 per cent., and, bearing in mind that the year 1930 itself was far from normal, it is evident that we have suffered very considerably in this section of our business. The production of ships on the North-East Coast during 1931 was the lowest recorded for over 40 years.

Our colliery supply business was well maintained throughout the year, our sales in this section showing some little improvement on those of the previous year. They were not, however, commensurate with what reasonably might have been expected in view of the additional motive-power plant installed during the year by colliery companies at various mines throughout the district. Further, the output of coal for household purposes was adversely affected owing to a fall in demand, due to the very mild weather experienced during the latter part of the year.

I am glad to say that our domestic supply business again shows a very substantial increase—the number of new consumers connected during the year exceeding 18,000. This represents an increase over the number connected in 1930 of over 28 per cent., and establishes a record for us in any one year. Apart from obtaining new domestic consumers, there has been a marked increase in the consumption of electricity by many of our existing consumers of this class, largely due to their utilising additional household appliances.

I think that, having due regard to the very adverse conditions with which we have had to contend, we may in the circumstances feel reasonably satisfied with the results achieved, and that the accounts disclose a more satisfactory position than might have been anticipated.

THE OUTLOOK.

In these times of industrial depression no one who appreciates the present difficult position would predict an early trade revival, but if we are to overcome the financial difficulties with which the country is beset it is essential that we should not lose confidence and that no stone should be left unturned in our endeavours to restore industry to its own. So far as this company is concerned, every effort is being made towards this end, and it is hoped that our endeavours will assist to bring about the desired result in the North-East Coast area, however gradual the process may be.

As regards our supplies to collieries, these naturally will be affected by the "quota" allotted in our area, but as Northumberland was fortunate enough to obtain the benefit of an increased "quota" late in 1931, it is to be hoped that this may be repeated during the course of the present year. It may interest you to know that, as a result of our efforts to obtain further business during last year, no less than twelve privately owned colliery generating plants, representing a total capacity of about 20,000 h.p., have been, or will be, closed down and future supplies taken from the system. In consequence of the exceptionally large number of new domestic consumers which we secured during 1931, it is our intention to concentrate, to a great extent, on increasing the use of electricity for various household purposes, with a view to improving our revenue from this source. As approximately one-half of those whom we obtained as domestic consumers last year only became revenue-earning during the last quarter of that year, we shall receive a considerably greater revenue from this source during the current year.

Good progress has been made in connection with developments in the North Riding of Yorkshire, to which I referred at the last annual meeting. During the present month we have obtained, in that area, our first supply from the Central Electricity Board's main transmission system, and as an ample supply of electricity is now available from this source, we are proceeding rapidly to obtain more consumers. I also then referred to our associated company, the Cleveland Power Company, having acquired several electricity undertakings in that area, among which I specially mentioned that of the Northallerton Electric Light and Power Company, Limited.

During the past year we have entered into an arrangement with the War Department for a supply to Catterick Camp, which is situated to the north-west of Northallerton, and we expect to have a supply available there in a few months' time. The availability of a supply from the "Grid" will enable us to close down certain small and isolated generating stations—including one at Northallerton—and to adopt a policy of active development which, so far, has not been possible in that area.

In the northern part of our area we obtained, in December last, a Special Order, covering the North Wansbeck area, which is situated north of Morpeth, and we are taking steps to develop this area also.

Throughout the whole area the rate at which additional domestic consumers have been connected up since the commencement of this year shows a substantial increase over the rate for the corresponding period last year, which is extremely gratifying.

TOTAL CONNECTIONS.

I referred in my earlier remarks to the additional horse-power we had connected during the past year. The total connections to the system, at the end of that year, exceeded three-quarters of a million h.p., and we had, on our books, orders for additional supplies exceeding 20,000 h.p. As these large connections represent a great diversity of trades, any general improvement, whether in home or export trade, will result in an increased use of our supplies on the part of our existing consumers, and should stimulate developments involving a further application of electricity for power purposes.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report. Mr James Tennant second the motion, which was carried. The chairman then moved the payment of dividends, the Hon. Robert H. Brand seconded, and the motion was carried.

The chairman moved the re-election of the retiring directors, Mr James Tennant and Mr Norbert Merz. Mr Alfred Rossin seconded this motion, which was adopted.

BRITISH INSULATED CABLES, LIMITED.

INCREASED PROFIT—STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

SIR ALEXANDER ROGER'S INTERESTING REVIEW.

The thirty-sixth ordinary general meeting of British Insulated Cables, Limited, was held, on the 1st instant, at Exchange Station Buildings, Liverpool.

Sir Alexander Roger (chairman) presided over a good attendance of shareholders.

The Secretary (Mr W. Kerfoot) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—When we met at this time last year I stressed the need for economy and for reduction of costs in the administration of our business, and, taking into consideration the world conditions at the time, I viewed our immediate trading prospects with a certain amount of anxiety. It is, therefore, very gratifying to your board to be able to report a profit for the year which slightly exceeds that of the previous year.

This result has been achieved in the face of a decline in the value of the turnover consequent to a large extent on the unprecedented fall in the cost of raw materials and reduction in the selling price of your company's products, and will, I trust, be regarded by shareholders as satisfactory.

SUCCESS OF BOLD POLICY.

The electrical industry has not felt the world depression so acutely as have many other businesses, and your board consider they have been justified in the bold and aggressive policy they have pursued for some time.

In addition to spending £245,000 on maintenance and renewals, we have, during the last three years, spent £367,000 in the provision of modern machinery and buildings, etc., largely to achieve more economical output.

We have also extended manufacturing in directions other than pure cable making, and thus broadened the base of our business. We have invested in or acquired certain carefully selected allied businesses, and, in co-operation with some other of the larger cable manufacturing companies, we have been able to apply a considerable degree of rationalisation in many directions. You will be glad to know that, apart from the question of reduction of costs, these various acquisitions are justifying themselves from the purely investment point of view. I just want to add that your board has no intention of being drawn into business which is not allied to the cable business.

PROFIT, DIVIDEND, RESERVE.

The profit and loss account shows that the profit on trading, dividends on investments, etc., amounts to £589,610, as compared with £576,593 for the previous year, or an increase of £13,017. To this profit there falls to be added the balance brought forward from last year, making a total of £868,928, out of which have been paid directors' and trustees' fees, etc., debenture interest, preference share dividend and interim dividend on the ordinary shares, amounting in all to £102,003, leaving a disposable balance of £767,924.

We then appropriate £100,000 for depreciation on property and plant and transfer £120,000 to reserve account, thus leaving a balance of £546,924 available for dividend, out of which we recommend a further dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary share capital, making, with the interim dividend already paid, a total distribution for the year of 15 per cent., and carrying forward £290,258 to next account, which is £10,941 more than was brought in.

A STRONG POSITION.

May I now refer you to the details appearing on the balance sheet, from which you will see that our position is a strong one. There is no change in the amount of the capital account, nor in the amount of debentures outstanding. The reserve account will amount to £1,140,000 if our proposals to-day are approved by you.

The [illegible] expenditure account and compassionate fund for unbrought monies unaltered, and, as regards the latter, I am glad to report that it continues to serve adequately its admirable and beneficent purpose.

As [illegible] reviewed various items in the balance sheet, and, in regard to investments, said at cost they amounted to £1,012,560, during the [illegible] of £44,881. These had recently been carefully revalued, only on a conservative basis, their present value exceeding the amount at which they stood in the account. In most cases these investments had been chosen with regard to their [illegible] to their manufacturing business, so that their [illegible] was assessable in terms of dividend.

BIG CONTRACTS CARRIED OUT.

During the past year they had completed the Scottish Overhead Grid for the Central Electricity Board, and the electrical track equipment for the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, in both cases with entire satisfaction. They had now carried out the electrical equipment of a total of 1,215 track miles of railway. The company fully maintained its prestige in the manufacture of super tension cables, having up to the present supplied about 270 miles of 66,000-volt cable.

In what he might call the "bread and butter" every-day work, business was well maintained. The number of orders received continued to grow as a result of increase of clientele, and their range of manufactures.

FACTORY DEVELOPMENT.

During the year the reorganisation of the Helsby factory had been completed and was now one of the best-equipped factories of the kind in the Kingdom. They recently removed the enamelled wire plant from Prescot to Huyton Quarry in order to provide more room for a rapidly-growing business, and were about to commence the building of new shops at Prescot for the increased and better manufacture of fine wires and tinned wires.

"HIGHER THAN EVER."

Every endeavour was being made to take business hitherto done by the foreigner, and several additional sales branches had been opened. Last, but not least, they felt confident the company's name for good work stood higher in the electrical industry than ever it did before. (Hear, hear.)

The future of industry generally remained a matter of great anxiety, but were we not surmounting our difficulties gradually? Had we not during the past few months instituted reforms which have gone some way towards stabilisation and recovery?

Bad as the general conditions had been and still were, it seemed to him that this country had felt the depression less than many others, and we were certainly in advance of any other country in the matter of taking steps to secure a revival in trade.

OUTLOOK FOR ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY.

So far as our own business is concerned (Sir Alexander continued) it does look as if we are likely to continue for 1932 on the scale of last year. We do not think we can look forward in the immediate future to any great acceleration of progress in the extension of electric light and power supply, but up to the present there is no diminution of demand. On the other hand, the electrification of the British railways, at least for all suburban services, cannot long be further deferred. If the railways are to regain a measure of their former prosperity, which is clearly in the national interest, they must be modernised so as to provide a more frequent, faster and cheaper service in competition with road transport.

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION.

The day of the steam locomotive as a prime mover is over. Electric working provides economy in train staff, saves time and money in preparing and fuelling locomotives for service, gives quicker acceleration in operation, and speeds up the whole running, thus obviating the necessity of duplicating lines in busy sections. Moreover, there is a substantial saving in the cost of operation per train mile.

A proposition so obviously economical cannot be indefinitely postponed, and, when it is taken up, it will help forward the whole electrical industry immensely by loading the National Grid and so reducing the incidence of capital costs, and rendering possible the supply of cheaper power to the advantage of industry generally.

When this work is put in hand your company certainly ought to be able to obtain a large portion of the orders for cables and track equipment, as we undoubtedly have much more experience in this technique than any other firm in this country.

A CORDIAL TRIBUTE.

I cannot conclude without paying a tribute to our tireless and indefatigable managing director, Mr G. H. Nisbett. He is a tower of strength to the company, especially in these troublous and difficult times, and I am sure it is your wish that we tender to him and to the staff and to all the workers our warm thanks for their efficient and successful work during the past year. (Applause.)

The report and accounts were adopted.

GODFREY PHILLIPS, LIMITED.

GRATIFYING RESULTS DESPITE YEAR'S DIFFICULTIES

The twenty-third annual general meeting of ordinary shareholders of Godfrey Phillips, Limited, was held, on the 24th ultimo, at the registered offices of the company, 112, Commercial Street, London, E., Mr Arthur I. Phillips (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, after paying a tribute to the late Mr Philip Phillips, said that the board had been fortunate in anticipating the country's departure from the gold standard, and had contracted to buy the great bulk of their leaf requirements in sterling. They had, therefore, been spared the necessity of taking their stocks at a variable exchange value. The tobacco duty was now 9s. 6d. per lb., far too high, and was gradually killing their mythological friend, the goose with the golden eggs. Consumption was now falling. It was a popular saying that no matter how bad things were people would smoke. The truth of that fallacy was confined only to what it said, but it did not say how often or how much, and less was being smoked, and revenue was suffering.

The net profit of £150,166 compared with £178,810 for 1930, and was actually higher, because in last year's accounts a deduction of some £29,000 had to be made to cover a loss by a subsidiary—which this year had made no loss—in order to arrive at the final net profit figures. He thought they should be gratified with that figure in view of the very acute competition which bad trade always brought. The board recommended a dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. for the year, that the sum of £6,183 4s. should be transferred to reserve, leaving the sum of £84,572 8s. 7d. to be carried forward. It might be suggested that, in view of the fact that the actual net profit was slightly more than that of the preceding year, the recommended distribution on the ordinary shares might be larger. As one of the biggest shareholders, his first impulse would be to agree, but with the inside knowledge he was bound to have, he realised that they could not both pay out their earnings and finance increased duties without further borrowings, a thing he was anxious to avoid. Although on the first flush it is disappointing, we must realise that we are not in business for the day, and that it would not be wise to leave ourselves too short of working capital.

In carrying forward this larger sum, your board is actuated solely by the desire to do what it deems best for the business. It should be borne in mind that for some years we have carried forward a sum towards the coming year's advertising appropriation which has gone to the credit of that account each year. This year we have not deemed it necessary, as at the moment we do not contemplate any large advertising expenditure for the purpose of introducing a new brand.

The amount carried forward is not earmarked for any particular purpose, so that it is available either for further working capital or to cover any special contingency which might arise.

During the year under review, in spite of the fact that towards the end thereof the total clearances of raw leaf tobacco from bond had tended to fall, the company had been able to maintain its output. In fact, they did a slightly bigger volume of business than in the preceding year.

The last year had witnessed the completion of a marketing scheme which the board had deemed practicable when they had first made the acquaintance in 1928 of Canadian-grown Virginia tobacco, and they had placed on the market a series of various tobaccos under the brand name "Canadian Club." The Canadian tobacco they had secured was equal to the finest raw leaf tobacco the world produced, and had all the pleasing characteristics of the United States tobacco. In fact, it was a first-class Virginia tobacco enjoying the Canadian preference. Still more recently they had placed on the market "Canadian Club" cigarettes, for which they anticipated a considerable demand.

They continued to sell large quantities of their leading brands. Their sales for "B.D.V." cigarettes for the last year showed a healthy increase. "Army Club" cigarettes still commanded a large and growing demand, and "De Reszke" cigarettes had merited further popularity by the introduction of this high-grade cigarette in a smaller size to retail at a lower popular price, namely, twenty for 8d. "B.D.V." tobacco had had a considerably increased sale, and "Grand Cut Virginia" had also increased its sale.

Quality told, and he did not think that many proprietary brands could point to having had larger sales in 1931. They took a great deal of pride in their products, and had adopted every tested appliance to enable them to turn out better and better cigarettes and milder and purer tobaccos. They would always maintain that policy.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The total ordinary revenue for the twelve days ended March 31, 1932, amounted to £40,755,000 against ordinary expenditure of £19,582,000. After allocating £1,362,000 to Sinking Fund and having allowed for an increase in Exchequer Balances of £8,000,000, the operations for the week, as shown below, reduced the National Debt by £16,823,000 to £7,582,550,000:—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Treasury Bills	+28,994	Public Department Advances	
Post Office	+2,400	Bank of England Currency Certificates	-8,000
		National Savings Certificates	- 1,362
		British Govt. Loans abroad	- 1,000
		National Debt Commissioners	- 8,000
		Sundries	- 19
	+31,394		-16,823

A complete analysis of the National Debt at March 31, 1932, is shown below:—

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1931.	Dec. 31, 1931.	Mar. 31, 1932.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	[illegible]	[illegible]
Term Annuities	30	20	12	12	12	12	12	[illegible]	[illegible]
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	166	204	384	13	13	[illegible]	[illegible]
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	740	832	811	363	363	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	799	799	[illegible]	[illegible]
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	221	223	14	14	[illegible]	[illegible]
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	267	327	[illegible]	[illegible]
5% War Stock	...	63	63	...	...	333	333	[illegible]	[illegible]
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	...	...	[illegible]	[illegible]
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,171	15	[illegible]	[illegible]
National War Bonds	...	1,509	556	194	...	...	1,007	[illegible]	[illegible]
4% Funding Loan	...	409	389	385	381	378	...	[illegible]	[illegible]
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	277	261	246	235	233	[illegible]	[illegible]
Treasury Bonds	...	...	454	675	681	848	697	[illegible]	[illegible]
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	16	16	...	...	[illegible]	[illegible]
National Savings Certs.	...	267	372	362	361	368	372	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,076	1,088	[illegible]	[illegible]
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	[illegible]	[illegible]
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	599	527	700	589	699	[illegible]	[illegible]
Temporary Advances	1	243	117	162	37	49	88	[illegible]	[illegible]
	654	8,033	7,555	7,533	7,590	7,470	7,413	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	98	103	130	137	170	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,607	7,583	[illegible]	[illegible]

* Includes debt to American Government.
† Includes recent United States and French credits to British Treasury.

The aggregate revenue and expenditure to March 31, 1932, is shown below:—

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1931-32, APRIL 1ST TO MARCH 31, 1932.
(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Expenditure	738,091	Revenue	770,591
New Sinking Fund	32,508	Decrease in balances	14
Net amount repaid	550		
	771,149		771,149

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	Mar. 31, '31. £	Mar. 19, '32. £	Mar. 31, '32. £	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) £
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	24,500,000	33,650,000	7,500,000	-26,000,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	569,825,000	575,435,000	604,455,000*	+28,630,000
Total Floating Debt	594,325,000	609,085,000	611,955,000	+1,870,000

* Includes £29,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in Treasury Bills were issued on March 24, 1932, and the total amount applied for was £60,315,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Tuesday and Wednesday, at £99 10s. 7d., about 65 per cent. and above in full, and Thursday to Saturday at £99 10s. 9d. and above in full. The amount allotted was £45,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months' Average Rate.
1932.	£	£	£ s. d.
March 4	40,000,000	52,560,000	99 9 9·68
March 11	45,000,000	71,470,000	99 10 0·65
March 18	45,000,000	74,055,000	99 10 0·32
March 24	45,000,000	60,315,000	99 10 10·39

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The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, March 23, 1932.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes issued:		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	358,835,323	Other Government Securities	241,794,776
In Banking Department	36,971,675	Other Securities	18,380,290
		Silver Coin	3,809,834
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	275,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	120,806,998
	£395,806,998		£395,806,998

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	37,615,906
Rest	3,695,468	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	10,439,004	Discounts and Advances	11,272,884
Other Deposits—		Securities	48,643,641
Bankers' Accounts	72,648,534		59,916,525
Other Accounts	32,969,577		
	105,618,111	Notes	36,971,675
Bills payable and other liabilities	1,596	Gold and Silver Coin	602,915
	£135,106,821		£135,106,821

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, March 30, 1932.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes issued:		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	360,529,134	Other Government Securities	240,864,396
In Banking Department	35,277,869	Other Securities	19,314,668
		Silver Coin	3,805,836
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	275,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	120,807,003
	£395,807,003		£395,807,003

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	35,695,906
Rest	3,679,468	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	27,230,726	Discounts and Advances	£11,725,366
Other Deposits—		Securities	51,086,890
Bankers' Accounts	£64,560,819		62,812,256
Other Accounts	£24,381,270		
	88,947,089	Notes	35,277,869
Bills payable and other liabilities	1,516	Gold and Silver Coin	624,788
	£134,410,819		£134,410,819

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

Bank Departments.	Amount, March 30, 1932.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Circulation	360,529,134	+ 1,693,611	+ 3,472,198
Public Deposits	27,230,726	+ 16,791,722	+ 9,987,983
Bankers' Deposits	64,565,819	− 18,882,715	− 4,222,401
Other Deposits	24,381,270	+ 1,411,693	− 312,168
Seven day Bills	1,516	+ 230	− 32
Total Circulation (Banking Department)	476,708,467	+ 1,014,531	+ 8,925,580
Capital and rest	18,233,466	− 16,922	− 36,509
Government Securities	287,575,402	− 2,850,380	+ 14,218,282
Other Securities	11,725,366	+ 452,482	− 12,903,518
Other assets	70,461,563	+ 3,377,627	+ 31,770,169
Total (Banking Department)	3,805,836	− 3,998	− 240,466
Total (Issue Department)	131,431,791	+ 21,678	− 23,965,396
Reserve of notes and coin in Banking Department	35,902,657	− 1,671,733	− 12,427,594
Proportion of reserve to liabilities (Banking Department only)	39⅛%	− ⅛%	− 12⅛%
Rate of discount	2½%	− ½%	− 5½%

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted.)

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1932.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to March 16	5,411,955	360,371	996,306	6,768,432
Week ended March 23	573,763	30,185	48,774	651,662
Week ended March 30	340,733	24,536	35,798	400,767
Total to date, 1932	6,325,441	414,732	580,688	7,420,861
Total to date, 1931*	8,814,643	436,849	698,950	9,950,442
Increase or decrease in 1932	− 2,489,202	− 22,117	− 18,263	− 2,529,581
	− 28·2%	− 5·1%	− 2·6%	− 25·4%
Total for year 1931	31,815,808	1,867,853	2,753,309	36,436,969
Total for year 1930	38,782,577	1,812,146	2,943,631	43,538,354
Increase or decrease in 1931	− 6,966,769	− 144,294	− 211,422	− 7,322,485
	− 17·9%	− 7·9%	− 7·1%	− 17·6%

* Adjusted on account of Easter holidays.

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

(000's omitted.)

	Week ended March 26.		Month of February.			Aggregate Totals, January 1 to March 26.	
	1931.	1932.	1931.	1932.	Inc. or Dec.	1931.	1932.
No. of working days			24	25			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
BIRMINGHAM	2,131	1,762	9,697	8,691	−10·3	29,869	27,353
BRADFORD	1,068	679	3,063	3,598	+17·4	9,399	10,069
BRISTOL	1,606	1,087	4,422	4,350	− 1·6	14,827	13,770
DUBLIN	4,666	3,796	...	...	...	61,334	61,912
HULL	633	564	3,140	3,188	+ 1·5	9,564	9,670
LEEDS	795	853	3,837	3,474	− 9·4	11,579	11,533
LEICESTER	593	587	2,633	2,958	+12·3	8,575	9,184
LIVERPOOL	5,043	5,174	23,263	22,738	− 2·2	69,033	67,969
MANCHESTER	9,885	9,102	37,865	42,538	+12·3	119,276	121,883
NEWCASTLE	1,290	1,353	5,552	5,215	− 6·0	17,158	16,016
NOTTINGHAM	368	360	1,875	1,859	− 0·8	6,241	6,035
SHEFFIELD	636	652	3,557	3,292	− 7·4	10,693	9,839
Total	28,644	25,959	98,904	101,901	+ 3·0	367,547	365,132

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Bank for International Settlements, Russian State Bank and the National Bank of Denmark appeared in the *Economist* of March 12; Lithuania, Danzig, Canadian Banks, Portugal and Roumania in March 26.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Apr. 2, 1931.	Mar. 10, 1932.	Mar. 17, 1932.	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
RESOURCES.					
Total gold reserve	3,115,200	2,959,420	2,996,680	3,007,490	3,017,780
Total bills discounted	163,630	747,980	660,790	210,900	633,250
Bills bought in open market	166,620	137,580	105,710	665,580	66,360
Total U.S. Govt. securities	598,360	785,120	842,160	81,700	871,620
Total bills and securities	928,610	1,680,180	1,615,620	747,280	1,578,150
Total resources	4,889,620	5,399,380	5,460,670	835,000	5,338,840
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,497,810	2,617,300	2,601,260	1,589,270	2,546,270
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,391,810	1,909,590	1,919,320	5,342,000	1,911,500
Total deposits	2,446,220	1,989,160	1,977,770	2,572,820	2,018,640
Capital paid in and surplus	443,460	415,810	415,700	1,910,600	415,040
Total liabilities	4,889,620	5,399,380	5,460,670	5,342,000	5,338,840
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	85·0%	68·8%	70·0%	70·6%	70·9%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Apr. 2, 1931.	Mar. 10, 1932.	Mar. 17, 1932.	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
Total gold reserves	1,067,030	901,210	908,160	935,000	971,930
Total bills discounted	36,190	137,480	129,670	132,860	138,180
Bills bought in open market	76,530	58,360	32,530	20,700	21,080
Total U.S. Govt. securities	182,710	319,500	367,400	344,460	364,900
Total bills and securities	295,430	523,500	533,360	502,350	529,440
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	1,023,880	804,500	815,300	821,860	849,990
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	85·0%	68·4%	67·9%	70·4%	69·7%

FEDERAL RESERVE MEMBER BANKS.

In $'s (000,000's omitted).

	Mar. 18, 1931.	Feb. 17, 1932.	Feb. 24, 1932.	Mar. 2, 1932.	Mar. 9, 1932.	Mar. 16, 1932.
Loans	15,518	12,691	12,609	12,585	12,436	12,388
Investments	7,593	7,040	6,997	6,935	6,869	7,200
Demand deposits	13,782	11,067	11,001	11,003	10,070	10,982
Time deposits	7,249	5,700	5,685	5,700	5,714	5,687
Due from banks	1,956	887	874	912	872	972
Due to banks	3,994	2,301	2,262	2,386	2,340	2,444
Federal reserve borrowings	27	493	478	474	397	328

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

	Mar. 5, 1931.	Feb. 5, 1932.	Feb. 12, 1932.	Feb. 19, 1932.	Feb. 26, 1932.	Mar. 4, 1932.
ASSETS.						
Gold coin and bullion	6,561	7,145	7,196	7,381	7,535	6,831
Subsidiary coin	274	439	449	458	462	460
Bills discounted	7,545	2,849	1,989	1,886	2,665	4,930
Investments	1,849	1,980	1,177	1,043	1,133	1,321
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	720	802	802	802	802	802
Notes in circulation	7,470	7,382	6,891	6,510	7,710	7,781
Government deposits	1,756	846	947	1,561	1,363	900
Bankers' deposits	5,362	5,002	4,801	4,369	4,186	4,830
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	46·9%	53·1%	53·9%	53·7%	56·1%	50·9%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 6, 1931.	Jan. 29, 1932.	Feb. 12, 1932.	Feb. 19, 1932.	Feb. 26, 1932.	Mar. 4, 1932.
Total securities	29,32,32	24,24,11	19,21,15	18,32,95	19,29,11	17,07,68
Loans	14,45,51	9,32,76	9,46,89	9,30,67	9,35,49	9,89,59
Cash credits	27,12,47	26,53,09	26,31,03	24,59,93	24,63,27	24,36,89
Inland bills	5,98,81	5,53,03	5,66,80	6,31,43	6,22,59	6,30,38
Foreign bills	42,57	21,31	32,82	28,38	28,34	33,67
Dead stock	2,75,19	2,68,61	2,68,66	2,68,85	2,68,84	2,68,88
Bal. with other banks	60,51	27,80	16,44	46,43	44,60	56,73
Cash	8,43,31	8,90,24	8,16,74	9,01,72	9,86,62	8,39,94
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,40,00	5,00,00	5,00,00	5,00,00	5,00,00	5,00,00
Total deposits	79,92,94	67,61,82	67,42,64	69,37,55	69,10,85	68,50,81
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	6,991	1,379	1,405	1,527	1,660	1,694
Advances in London	6,609	1,378	1,373	1,294	1,395	1,396
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	456	212	128	350	337	427

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 27, 1931.	Mar. 4, 1932.	Mar. 11, 1932.	Mar. 18, 1932.	Mar. 25, 1932.
Gold	56,116,440	75,737,753	76,157,288	76,508,642	76,831,523
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	6,939,034	4,333,384	4,149,751	3,923,097	3,848,636
Bills, &c.	19,367,559	8,903,286	8,934,035	8,804,857	...
Home bills	7,083,928	4,499,025	4,504,126	4,329,620	...
Advances against sec.					
To the State	3,200,000	3,200,000	3,200,000	3,200,000	3,200,000
Other advances	2,858,325	2,802,935	2,778,756	2,771,489	2,715,643
Negotiable Bonds, Sinking Fund Dept.	5,082,397	6,882,476	6,880,527	6,880,527	6,880,527
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,825,907	5,796,189	5,266,688	5,279,598	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	77,863,568	83,452,267	82,580,848	81,929,466	81,782,044
Public deposits	11,772,854	3,909,747	3,652,246	3,823,039	3,526,377
Private deposits	12,049,232	22,266,484	23,190,969	23,497,911	24,443,717
Other liabilities	2,787,936	2,626,550	2,447,110	2,446,414	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 23, 1931.	Mar. 7, 1932.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.
Gold	2,286,123	880,006	876,859	877,088
Of which deposited abroad	207,638	164,607	77,577	76,623
Reserve in foreign currencies	222,592	156,409	141,666	142,188
Bills of exchange and cheques	1,474,029	3,302,496	3,302,893	3,219,323
Silver and other coin	194,992	133,582	175,749	208,696
Notes of other German banks	20,797	6,314	7,416	7,813
Advances	86,690	218,430	200,170	134,869
Investments	102,262	161,752	161,752	361,753
Other assets	555,653	876,514	854,994	824,454
LIABILITIES.				
Share capital	122,788	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserves	371,139	337,331	337,331	417,426
Notes in circulation	3,765,684	4,178,896	4,113,151	4,005,896
Other daily maturing obligations	342,845	318,872	344,470	491,453
Other liabilities	340,682	750,404	776,547	711,409
Cover of note circulation	66·7%	24·8%	24·8	25·4%

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.

The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914. (b)	Mar. 26, 1931.	Mar. 3, 1932.	Mar. 10, 1932.	Mar. 17, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.
Gold	232,680 (Gold, Foreign bills and balances abroad, Silver and other coin)	1,439,389	2,521,620	2,509,222	2,511,069	2,512,209
Foreign bills and balances abroad		913,511	...	—	...	...
Silver and other coin		4,581	46,276	46,971	48,876	49,709
Securities	697,800	755,118	913,225	890,870	970,844	966,062
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,180	3,164,419	3,746,810	3,720,882	3,615,768	3,600,637
Current accounts	112,125	251,908	105,377	121,582	107,463	127,844

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	Mar. 23, 1931.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 7, 1932.	Mar. 14, 1932.	Mar. 21, 1932.
Gold	163,092	446,000	879,281	881,333	875,660	876,153
Silver	8,436	34,237	25,848	25,032	25,027	25,221
Home bills dscntd.	283,804 (Home bills, Foreign bills, Loans and advances)	45,663	69,146	64,822	63,652	63,113
Foreign bills		220,697	84,309	84,309	84,309	84,349
Loans and advances in current acct.		82,891	99,134	92,836	93,941	94,642
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,633	805,030	1,007,944	968,393	975,792	967,030
Deposits	6,016	40,321	164,006	174,249	181,083	192,650

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914	Mar. 28, 1931.	Mar. 5, 1932.	Mar. 12, 1932.	Mar. 19, 1932.	Mar. 26, 1932.
Gold	22,971	118,664	150,600 (Gold and Silver)	154,900	153,600	150,200
Silver	29,786	47,429				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,587	130,688	108,400	109,400	106,400	104,800
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	238,651	229,400	231,100	227,200	224,800
Deposits and bills payable	11,259	56,816	37,300	33,700	32,700	32,000

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 20, 1931.	Feb. 20, 1932.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 10, 1932.	Mar. 20, 1932.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,310,400	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5,626,900
Foreign bills and balances abroad	4,074,300	1,737,900	1,725,300	[illegible]	1,609,700
Other cash	237,100	[illegible]	304,500	307,200	311,300
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,772,800	[illegible]	1,772,800
Discounts	3,467,000	[illegible]	4,627,900	[illegible]	4,634,000
Advances	1,100,000	[illegible]	1,126,500	970,500	[illegible]
Credit with "Institutio di Liquidazione"	636,300	[illegible]	1,575,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
Government securities	1,159,600	1,369,400	1,369,600	1,370,100	1,370,500
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,021,000	13,637,900	[illegible]	[illegible]	13,651,100
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	1,940,200	1,593,700	1,631,200	[illegible]	1,471,700
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	54·37%	46·46%	46·18%	46·61%	46·22%

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 22, 1914.	Mar. 30, 1931.	Feb. 29, 1932.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gold	171,175	642,922	2,097,533	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	—	316,841	97,686	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Discounts	...	27,969	34,144	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Advances	103,000	36,007	81,996	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	898,414	1,605,468	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deposits	33,789	206,476	1,179,486	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 28, 1931.	Mar. 5, 1932.	Mar. 12, 1932.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gold reserve	240,026	205,894	205,896	[illegible]	[illegible]
Government securities—Swedish	3,358	3,730	3,730	[illegible]	[illegible]
" " foreign	69,609	—	—	—	—
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	84	94	94	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bills payable in Sweden†	136,807	396,962	372,674	[illegible]	[illegible]
" " abroad	97,223	1,681	1,681	[illegible]	[illegible]
Balance abroad	134,901	93,702	106,043	[illegible]	[illegible]
Advances made on Government securities and bonds†	37,458	36,126	30,780	[illegible]	[illegible]
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	517,342	509,198	496,789	[illegible]	[illegible]
Government deposits	164,635	156,919	153,268	[illegible]	[illegible]
Private deposits	6,597	29,963	36,816	[illegible]	[illegible]

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are not available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Mar. 16, 1931.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 7, 1932.	[illegible]
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,418	118,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	25,701	14,320	[illegible]	[illegible]
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	54,325	27,974	[illegible]	[illegible]
Discounts and loans	76,911	176,047	239,356	[illegible]	[illegible]
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	279,968	303,172	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deposits at sight	7,188	69,792	71,261	[illegible]	[illegible]

* In addition the Bank has at its free disposal abroad Kr. 37,199,000.

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914	Mar. 21, 1931.	Feb. 27, 1932.	Mar. 5, 1932.	Mar. 12, 1932.	[illegible]
Gold	521,775	2,419,315	2,248,812	2,249,056	[illegible]	[illegible]
Silver	728,600	711,763	533,613	532,260	[illegible]	[illegible]
Loans & Discounts	800,725	2,037,969	3,074,082	3,120,216	[illegible]	[illegible]
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	[illegible]	[illegible]
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,628,436	4,947,865	5,017,842	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deposits	477,500	798,965	1,021,182	1,027,027	[illegible]	[illegible]

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 23, 1931.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 7, 1932.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	214,366	179,416	179,416	179,416	[illegible]
Foreign exchange	135,212	79,020	75,330	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other foreign exchange†	492,681	115	115	115	115
Bills discounted	59,365	877,401	856,948	[illegible]	[illegible]
Govt. debt	96,144	96,643	96,643	[illegible]	[illegible]
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	[illegible]	[illegible]
Reserve fund	10,803	10,803	10,803	[illegible]	[illegible]
Notes in circulation	836,485	1,043,886	986,814	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deposits	165,370	128,502	158,730	[illegible]	[illegible]

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengo (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 23, 1931.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 7, 1932.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	147,985	100,044	100,047	[illegible]	[illegible]
Drafts and notes	13,119	14,885	15,406	[illegible]	[illegible]
Silver coin and bullion	13,892	10,277	9,746	[illegible]	[illegible]
Inland bills, warrants and securities	197,892	396,093	385,726	[illegible]	[illegible]
Advances to Treasury	60,140	54,536	64,513	[illegible]	[illegible]
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	[illegible]	[illegible]
Notes in circulation	329,192	383,007	371,667	[illegible]	[illegible]
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	43,791	90,380	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 23, 1931.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 7, 1932.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gold	1,542,285	1,645,847	1,644,377	[illegible]	[illegible]
Balance abroad and foreign currency	2,230,634	677,342	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Discounts and advances	121,327	1,571,378	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
State notes debt balance	3,365,570	3,076,116	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other assets	1,083,045	686,418	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	5,787,823	6,692,895	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Check account balances	1,713,269	276,686	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other liabilities	330,858	349,247	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In leva (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1931.	Feb. 23, 1932.	Feb. 29, 1932.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gold and silver holdings	1,464,906	1,512,343	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	731,833	337,959	347,114	[illegible]	[illegible]
Discounts and advances	639,043	694,333	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Advances to the Treasury	3,064,426	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Reserves	6,183,202	1,190,783	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bank notes in circulation	3,109,956	2,650,910	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sight liabilities	1,486,004	1,570,934	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deposits	266,097	238,853	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 8, 1932.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 22, 1932.
ASSETS.				
Gold reserve—Gold at home and abroad	1,799,641	1,789,614	1,760,317	1,763,358
Foreign exchange	121,046	194,931	196,839	207,115
Other foreign exchange	82,778	86,884	86,826	86,390
Bills and advances against security	2,189,687	2,200,469	2,186,276	2,184,481
Government advances	1,861,972	1,802,134	1,802,305	1,802,578
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	4,776,979	4,861,656	4,803,714	4,750,966
Sight deposits	480,689	487,239	536,711	567,184

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmae (000's omitted).

	Mar. 15, 1931.	Feb. 21, 1932.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 7, 1932.	Mar. 15, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Gold	615,801	892,373	869,373	869,380	831,354
Gold exchange	2,619,457	589,854	636,131	560,932	536,778
Other foreign exchange	2,996	2,164	2,170	2,162	2,578
Bills discounted	155,017	146,023	144,553	147,312	151,632
Advances	191,454	729,453	680,722	733,601	744,023
Debt to the State	3,286,763	3,180,317	3,180,417	3,150,417	3,180,417
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	4,400,573	3,694,448	3,739,146	3,781,298	3,746,892
Deposits and current accounts	1,382,468	453,682	476,846	415,269	453,285
Foreign exchange liabilities	310,417	104,186	153,442	155,627	136,374

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

	Mar. 20, 1931.	Feb. 20, 1932.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 10, 1932.	Mar. 20, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Gold	602,216	602,334	606,468	608,403	608,451
Of which held abroad	77,386	115,660	119,733	121,586	121,585
Foreign currencies	349,580	184,820	175,473	164,094	160,283
Bills discounted	667,453	636,834	645,208	629,133	644,257
Loans against securities	80,793	129,702	131,307	128,821	129,342
Reserve fund securities	90,830	92,800	92,800	92,800	92,761
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000
Notes in circulation	1,147,071	1,068,888	1,150,974	1,111,721	1,076,486
Current accounts	298,776	243,926	191,354	196,039	237,909

* As from October 27, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

	Position, May 30, 1914.	Mar. 14, 1931.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 8, 1932.	Mar. 15, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Gold	36,091	302,243	303,977	303,977	303,977
International and foreign bills	96,379	952,941	842,211	859,363	929,808
Bonds and Foreign Government securities	22,828	368,483	356,383	356,905	355,876
Bonds and loans	165,181	860,348	1,059,922	1,069,838	1,018,071
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,296,706	1,271,265	1,297,745	1,296,513
Drafts at notice	21,226	107,956	247,094	216,197	244,905

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

	Mar. 23, 1931.	Feb. 22, 1932.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 7, 1932.	Mar. 14, 1932.	Mar. 21, 1932.
ASSETS.						
Gold bullion and coins	34,000	32,906	32,907	32,910	32,922	32,923
Silver coin	6,381	13,996	13,746	13,552	13,483	13,314
Balances abroad	30,237	13,368	13,027	12,924	13,516	13,591
For. notes and ex. change	13,497	16,197	15,026	14,721	15,123	14,640
Short term bills	82,451	75,269	75,154	75,106	74,787	74,776
Loans against securities	70,991	57,497	57,246	57,264	58,021	57,373
Other assets	14,652	21,611	21,252	21,778	22,363	22,996
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	47,778	39,124	39,553	39,170	38,842	38,983
Capital paid up	18,736	19,676	19,676	19,676	19,676	19,676
Reserve	4,352	4,729	4,729	4,729	4,729	4,729
[illegible]	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,500
Deposits	30,659	17,939	18,021	18,040	17,994	17,982
Current accounts	67,464	76,171	76,326	76,096	78,157	55,940
Government accounts	13,855	56,382	56,077	56,071	55,923	78,283
Other liabilities	5,894	10,322	10,477	10,969	11,394	10,523

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

	Position [illegible]	Mar. 7, 1931.	Feb. 13, 1932.	Feb. 20, 1932.	Feb. 27, 1932.	Mar. 5, 1932.
ASSETS.						
Gold coin and bullion / Other coin and bullion	[illegible]	825,236	430,586	430,586	430,562	430,563
[illegible]		84,076	51,583	52,990	53,963	54,293
[illegible]	[illegible]	646,386	763,460	716,009	768,580	1,019,903
[illegible]	[illegible]	56,966	57,572	58,069	58,196	57,522
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	[illegible]	1,098,497	1,026,863	983,070	1,094,318	1,346,895
Govt. deposits	[illegible]	401,611	396,223	407,964	366,836	411,991
Other deposits	[illegible]	280,466	64,121	53,882	62,646	88,768

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—In £E (000's omitted).

	Jan. 31, 1931.	Nov. 30, 1931.	Dec. 31, 1931.	Jan. 31, 1932.
[illegible]	[illegible]	2,925	2,925	2,925
[illegible]	[illegible]	2,925	2,925	2,925
[illegible]	[illegible]	6,120	4,774	4,256
[illegible]	18,468	15,420	16,723	16,672
[illegible]	2,407	3,630	2,812	3,167
ASSETS.				
[illegible]	1,365	1,343	1,582	1,254
[illegible]	1,281	797	765	789
[illegible]	1,770	722	1,636	1,341
[illegible]	13,367	14,460	14,074	14,381
[illegible]	7,176	9,340	9,216	9,175
[illegible]	1,890	1,365	1,568	1,601
[illegible]	1,396	2,363	1,335	1,404
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	21,100	20,500
[illegible]	[illegible]	3,903	3,903	3,903
[illegible]	[illegible]	10,418	11,118	10,518
[illegible]	[illegible]	4,680	4,680	4,680
[illegible]	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

[illegible] Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in [illegible]

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Feb. 27, 1931.	Feb. 5, 1932.	Feb. 12, 1932.	Feb. 19, 1932.	Feb. 26, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Gold at home	61,597	66,971	67,036	67,136	67,231
Gold abroad	264,240	102,769	100,943	98,528	96,564
Discounts and advances	85,010	44,894	38,729	35,283	32,940
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	301,301	329,191	327,743	331,126	331,293
Deposits	43,453	100,343	124,667	122,332	114,412
Paid-up capital	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Mar. 22, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 26, 1932.	Mar. 29, 1932.	Mar. 30, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 4% Mar. 17, 1932)	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2½–⅝	2½	2⅜–½	2–2½	2–2½	2–⅛	2½
3 months' do.	2½–⅝	2½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅛–¼	2⅛–¼
4 months' do.	2½–⅝	2½–⅝	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅛–¼	2⅛–¼
6 months' do.	2½–⅝	2½–⅝	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅛–¼	2⅛–¼
Discount Treasury Bills—							
2 months'	2⅛	2	2	2	2	1⅞–2	1⅞
3 months'	2⅛–¼	2	1⅞–2	1⅞–2	1⅞–2	1⅞–2	1⅞
Loans—Day-to-day	1½–2½	1½–2	1½–2½	1½–2½	1½–2½	1½–2½	2–3½
Short	2–2½	1½–2	2–½	2–2½	2–½	2–½	2–3
Deposit allowances: Bank	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Discount houses at call	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
At notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1932.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mar. 10	2–2½	2½–2⅝	2½–2⅝	2½–2⅝	4	4½	5
„ 17	2–2½	2⅝	2½–2⅝	2½–2⅝	3½	3¾	3¾–4
„ 23	1½–2	2½	2½–2⅝	2½–2⅝	3½	4	4¼
„ 31	2–3	2⅛–2¼	2⅛–2¼	2⅛–2¼	3½	4	4¼

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance.	Par.	April 1, 1931. 3.45 p.m.	March 23, 1932. 3.45 p.m.	March 31, 1932. 3.45 p.m.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·85⅞–⅜	3·64–64½	3·76½–3·77½
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·86 3/32–⅛	4·07–4·09	4·17–4·19
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·16–·18	92½–92¾	95½–96¼
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·39½–40½	15·25–15·35	15½–15¾
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·12–·12½	9·03–9·06	9·32–9·37
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·94½–·95	26·10–26·15	27–27½
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·77–·79	70½–70¾	72½–73
Zurich	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·25½–·26	18·85–18·88	19 3/16–19 5/16
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15¾–·16½	18·70–18·80	18½–19
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15–·15½	18·50–18·60	18 7/16–18 9/16
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16½–·17	18·12–18·17	18½–18¾
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	44·39–·42	48½–48¾	49½–50½
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	110	108⅛–⅜	109¾–110¼	109¾–110¼
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·53–·56	30–34†	30–34†
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅞–164	122¾–123¾	127–128
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	276·316	276½–¾	200–215	210–215
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·86–·89	20–21 (f)	20–21(f)
Bucharest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	816–818	600–615	630–650
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	673·659	668–673	490–520	510–540
Athens	drachma to £1	T.T.	375	374¾–375¼	275–300	290–310
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	1025 sellers	750–775†	775–825†
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	9·43–45	7·02–7·04	7·32–7·34
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43⅛–¼	32–33	33–34
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192¾–193¼	210–220	210–220
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49	32–36	35–39
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20–·27	12–14	13–15
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·20–·30	17–19	19–21
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 5/16–⅜	97⅜–97⅝	97⅜–97⅝
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	39 3/16–¼	38¼–38¾	37–37½
Rio de Janeiro	pence to milr.	90 days	5·899	3⅝–11/16	4–4½	3 15/16–4 1/16
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	35·35½	29–32†	28–30†
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·95	31·00†	31·50†
Lima	soles to £1	90 days	17·3	16·92½	12·97½	13·30†
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 [illegible]	1/6⅛–3/16	1/6 1/16–3/16
Bombay		T.T.		1/5 [illegible]		
Madras		T.T.		1/5 [illegible]		
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	11⅞d–1/0⅛	1/3⅝–1/4⅛	1/3½–1/3¾
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	1/3⅛–¼	1/9¾–1/10¼	1/8¾–1/9¼
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 13/16–⅞	2/3⅝–2/3 13/16	2/3⅝–2/3 13/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·582d.	2/0⅛–3/16	1/9½–1/9¾	1/9–1/9½
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	2/0 1/16	2/7–2/8½†	2/8–2/9
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·20–·30	10½–10¾†	11–11½
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·82d.	1/9⅞	2/5–2/6	2/4–2/5

† Nominal. (f) Official rate.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Albania	July 1, 1931	9	8	Madrid	July 8, 1931	6	6½
Amsterdam	Sept. 28, 1931	2	3	Oslo	Mar. 3, 1932	5½	5
Athens	Feb. 20, 1932	12	11	Paris	Oct. 9, 1931	2	2½
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½	Prague	Dec. 22, 1931	6½	6
Belgrade	July 20, 1931	6½	7½	Pretoria	Nov. 13, 1931	5	6
Berlin	Mar. 8, 1932	7	6	Reval	Jan. 28, 1932	6½	5½
Brussels	Jan. 13, 1932	2½	3½	Riga	Oct. 1, 1930	7	6a / 7b
Bucharest	Mar. 3, 1932	8	7	Rome	Mar. 21, 1932	7	6
Budapest	Jan. 19, 1932	8	7	Sofia	Sept. 30, 1931	8½	9½
Calcutta	Feb. 25, 1932	7	6	Stockholm	Mar. 3, 1932	5½	6
Copenhagen	Mar. 11, 1932	6	5	Swiss Bank places	Jan. 22, 1931	2½	2
Danzig	Nov. 24, 1931	6	5	Tokio	Mar. 12, 1932	6·57	5·84
Helsingfors	Feb. 12, 1932	8	7	Vienna	Mar. 17, 1932	8	7
Kovno	Mar. 1, 1932	8½	7½	Warsaw	Oct. 3, 1930	6½	7½
Lisbon	Aug. 6, 1931	7½	7	Irish	Mar. 17, 1932	5	4½
New York Federal Reserve	Feb. 26, 1932	3½	3				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.
a 6% applied to banks and credit institutions.
b 7% applied to private persons and firms.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Mar. 31, 1931.	Mar. 2, 1932.	Mar. 9, 1932.	Mar. 16, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 30, 1932.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	2	3½	3½	3½	3½	3
Bank acceptances:—			Selling Rates			
Members—eligible, 90 days ...	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days ...	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Ineligible, 90 days	2	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Commercial accept., 90 days	2½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Mar. 31, 1931.	Mar. 16, 1932.	Mar. 22, 1932.	Mar. 30, 1932.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·83½	3·60	3·61⅛	3·75⅛
Cable			4·85⅛	3·62½	3·64½	3·78
Cheques			4·85⅛	3·62⅜	3·64	3·77½
Paris.....cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·91½	3·94	3·93⅛	3·93⅛
Brussels..... „	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·90	13·96	13·93	13·96
Switzerland ... „	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·23½	19·38	19·30½	19·37½
Italy ..... „	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23⅜	5·18½	5·18	5·18⅛
Berlin ..... „	Cents for 1 mark	23·82	23·81½	23·78	23·77	23·77
Vienna ..... „	Cts. for Austrn. schg.	14·07	14·056	...	...	...
Madrid ..... „	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	10·93	7·60	7·54	7·56¼
Amsterdam ... „	Cents for 1 guilder	40·198	40·07⅜	40·35	40·21	40·38
Copenhagen ... „	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·73½	19·95	20·05	20·95
Oslo ..... „			26·74	19·60	19·45	19·92
Stockholm..... „			26·76	19·80	19·67	20·35
Athens ..... „	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29⅜	12·87½	...	12·87½
Montreal ..... „	Can. cents for $1	100	¼ dis.	10⅜ dis.	10⅛ dis.	9⅜ dis.
Yokohama ... „	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	49·35	33	33⅜	33½
Hong Kong ... „	Cents for H. Kong $	...	25·00	...	...	...
Shanghai ..... „	Cts. for 1 Shag. tael	...	31·87½	...	...	...
Calcutta ..... „	Cents for 1 rupee	36·80	36·10	27·37½	27·50	28⅛
Buenos Aires „	Gold pence for $100	103·68	126·45	...	...	...
Rio de Janeiro „	Cents for 1 milreis	11·96	7·50	...	...	...
Valparaiso..... „	Cents for 1 peso	12·128	12·02	...	...	...

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

BUYING RATES.

	T.T.	Sight.	30 days' sight.	60 days' sight.	90 days' sight.
London on:—					
Rhodesia.....	½% dis. £30½	½% dis. £31	1½% dis. £31½	2½% dis. £32½	3½% dis. £32½
South Africa ...					

SELLING RATES PER £100 (STERLING).

	Sight.	Telegraphic.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
London on:—		
Rhodesia	99 17 6	99 18 9
South Africa	79 15 0	79 10 0

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of Exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Latest Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	23·68†
Venezuela	Bolivares to £ ...	25·2215	„	23·00
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £	5	„	3·97†
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £ ...	4·8665	„	4·95
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	„	10·10
Bolivia	Bolivianos to £ ...	15·33	„	13·36

† Nominal.

OVERSEAS DOMINION RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.				Australia and New Zealand on London.*			
	Buying.		Selling.		Buying.		Selling.	
	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	130	109⅝	130	...	129½	110
Sight ...	129½	111½	130½	109⅝	130⅛	109½	129½	109⅝
30 days	129⅞	111½	...	...	130¼	109½	129	109⅝
60 days	129⅞	111⅝	...	...	130⅜	109⅝	128½	109
90 days	129⅞	112	...	...	130⅜	109⅝	128½	108⅝

All rates (Australia and New Zealand) now based on £100—LONDON.

INDIA: REMITTANCES TO THE HOME TREASURY.

	During the week ending Mar. 26, 1932.	From Apr. 1, 1931, to Mar. 26, 1932.
	£	£
Sterling purchased in India	874,000	39,061,000
Net transfer to Home Treasury. From paper currency reserve in England	...	...
Net transfer to Home Treasury. From gold standard reserve in England against gold transferred in India from paper currency reserve to gold standard reserve.....	...	23,047,804
	874,000	62,108,804
Less sales of sterling	...	14,047,804
Net remittance to Home Treasury	874,000	48,061,000

India Office, S.W.1,
March 29, 1932.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended March 24, 1932, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	To—	£
Netherlands	3,553	Germany	1
Iraq	7,706	Netherlands	1,200
U.S.A.	3,638	France	22,110
Brazil	276,785	Switzerland	1,300,000
British W. Africa	49,875	Austria	1,000
British S. Africa	947,739		600
British India.....	1,081,494		
Straits Settlements	57,400		
Australia	6,538		
New Zealand	42,770		
Other countries	3,665		
Total declared value of imports	2,481,153	Total declared value of exports	1,324,911

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended March 31, 1932, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	To—	£
Iraq.....	13,908	Poland	1
Malta and Gogo	3,400	Netherlands	1,200
British India	1,278,625	France	8,100
Straits Settlements	21,000	Switzerland	99,277
Australia	195,550	Other countries	76,000
New Zealand	50,000		100
Other countries	2,421		
Total declared value of imports	1,565,004	Total declared value of exports	184,678

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Company write on March 30, 1932, as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £120,806,998 on the 23rd inst., as compared with £120,804,995 on the previous Wednesday. The s.s. "Letitia," which sailed from Bombay on the 24th inst., carries gold to the value of about £1,004,000, and the s.s. "Mooltan," which left on the 26th inst., about £500,000. Gold offered in the open market has been taken for the Continent, but operations have been restricted owing to the Easter holidays. Prices have shown rather wide fluctuations following movements in the foreign exchanges.

Quotations:—	Per fine ounce.	Equivalent value of £ sterling.
March 17	114s. 5d.	14s. 10·2d.
„ 18	114s. 4d.	14s. 10·1d.
„ 19	113s. 2d.	15s. 0·2d.
„ 21	112s. 10d.	15s. 0·7d.
„ 22	113s. 1d.	15s. 0·2d.
„ 23	113s. 2d.	15s. 0·2d.
Average	113s. 6d.	14s. 11·6d.
March 24	112s. 2d.	15s. 1·6d.
„ 29	108s. 11d.	15s. 7·2d.
„ 30	110s. 5d.	15s. 4·7d.
Average of above three days ...	110s. 6d.	15s. 4·6d.

SILVER.

Owing to the Easter holiday the week under review contained only three working days, during which prices showed an easier tendency influenced by movements in the exchanges. After two successive falls of ¼d., prices were fixed yesterday at 17⅜d. for both deliveries, but there was a recovery to-day to 17½d. for cash and 17⅝d. for two months' delivery. The market has been rather quiet, with China inclined to sell and bears covering at the low level, whilst America has continued to give support. The tendency remains uncertain and at present seems likely to be dominated by the exchange situation.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 21st inst. to mid-day on the 26th inst.:—

Imports.	£	Exports.	£
British West Africa	30,413	Czechoslovakia	2,100
Canada	8,293	United States of America	25,000
France	5,792	Germany	4,000
Other countries	1,539	Other countries	1,000
	46,037		32,100

Quotations:—	In London. Bar silver per oz. std. Cash delivery.	Two Months' delivery.	In New York.	Cents per Ounce .999 fine.
March 17	18·0d.	18⅛d.	March 16	29
„ 18	18⅛d.	18⅛d.	„ 17	29
„ 19	18⅛d.	18⅛d.	„ 18	29
„ 21	17⅞d.	17⅞d.	„ 19	29
„ 22	17⅞d.	17⅞d.	„ 21	29
„ 23	18⅛d.	18⅛d.	„ 22	29
Average	17·979d.	18·052d.		

The highest rate of exchange on New York recorded during the period from the 17th inst. to 23rd inst. was $3·66¼ and the lowest $3·64.

	In London. Bar silver per oz. std. Cash delivery.	Two Months' delivery.	In New York.		Cents per Ounce ·999 fine.
March 24	17⅜d.	17⅜d.	March 23		29⅛
„ 29	17⅜d.	17⅜d.	„ 24		29⅛
„ 30	17⅛d.	17⅜d.	„ 25		29⅛
			„ 26		29⅛
Average of above 5 days	17·833d.	17·854d.	„ 28		29⅞
			„ 29		30⅛

The highest rate of exchange on New York recorded during the period from the 24th inst. to the 30th inst. was $3·82⅛ and the lowest $3·66.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	March 22.	March 15.	March 7.
Notes in circulation	17,959	18,048	18,071
Silver coin and bullion in India	11,070	11,061	11,136
Gold coin and bullion in India	511	511	501
Securities (Indian Government)	5,978	6,076	6,084
Bills of exchange	400	400	350

The stocks in Shanghai on the 29th inst. consisted of about 57,800,000 ounces in sycee, 174,000,000 dollars and 4,480 silver bars, as compared with about 57,800,000 ounces in sycee, 172,000,000 dollars and 5,460 silver bars on the 19th inst.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Highest	113 1	17⅞	17⅛	April 3, 1926	31 7/16
Lowest	113 2	18 1/16	18 1/16	„ 9, 1927	30
Highest	113 2	17 3/16	17 3/16	„ 1, 1928	26 1/16
Lowest	108 11	17 3/16	17 3/16	„ 4, 1929	26 1/16
Highest	110 5	17⅛	17 3/16	„ 3, 1930	19 1/16
Lowest	109 1	17⅛	17 3/16	„ 1, 1931	12 1/16

NOTICES.

The Midland Bank announces that the business of the sub-office in Eden Road, Whitton, near Twickenham, has been transferred to new premises in Percy Road (adjoining Whitton railway station), where a full branch has been established. Night-safe banking facilities are available at the new office.

Company News.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

BALDWINS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1931.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
5% "A" pref. stk.	800,000	...
5% "B" pref. stk.	1,000,000	...
Ord. stock	1,000,000	...
Reserve fund	1,000,000	...
Loans	1,000,000	...
Bank overdraft	1,000,000	...
Sundry creditors	1,000,000	...
Dividends	1,000,000	...
Profit and loss	1,000,000	...
Total	8,800,000	...

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
Property and plant	1,000,000	...
Shares in and advances to subsidiary cos.	1,000,000	...
Stocks and shares	1,000,000	...
Debtors	1,000,000	...
Investments and loans	1,000,000	...
Bills receivable	1,000,000	...
Cash and loans at short call	1,000,000	...
Bullion and Indian Govt. securities	1,000,000	...
Stock	1,000,000	...
Deferred expenditure	1,000,000	...
Total	8,800,000	...

CUNARD STEAM SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1931.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
5% cum. pref. stk.	1,500,000	...
6% 2nd cum. pref. stk.	1,000,000	...
Ord. shares, £1	5,570,241	...
Govt. share	20	...
Reserve fund	500,000	...
5% deb. stk.	4,000,000	...
Int. accrued	83,333	...
Loan on freehold property	420,000	...
Due to subsidiaries	12,338	− 810,239
Creditors	3,435,063	− 56,642
Divs. on pref. stks.	...	− 67,500
Profit and loss	8,163	− 270,704
Total	16,529,158	−1,205,085

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
Steamships at cost	8,743,599	+ 651,295
Freehold and leasehold properties	567,410	− 41,155
Plant	73,101	− 9,960
Shares in subsidiaries at cost	4,735,664	−2,075,208
Due from subsidiaries	51,647	+ 11,679
Shares in other companies	126,889	...
Stocks	265,679	− 46,675
Debtors	533,331	− 29,188
Discount on deb. issue	90,000	− 10,000
Cash	1,341,839	+ 344,127
Total	16,529,158	−1,205,085

THE LANCASHIRE STEEL CORPORATION, LIMITED.

December 31, 1931.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
7% non. cum. 2nd pref. £1	898,438	...
"A" ord. £1	2,862,238	...
"B" ord. £1	500,000	+ 300,000
Amounts provided by Guarantee Gp.	312,500	+ 312,500
Creditors	301,608	− 29,630
Profit and loss	2,251	− 1,662
Total	4,877,035	+ 581,208

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
Properties	2,775,976	+ 587,979
Investments in subs. cos. at cost	1,119,609	...
Trade investments at cost	60,350	+ 50
Stocks	521,996	− 1,000
Trade debtors	229,514	− 82,640
Due by subs. cos.	58,142	+ 42,725
5% War stock at cost	Nil	− 51,828
Cash	111,448	+ 108,112
Preliminary exps.	Nil	− 22,490
Total	4,877,035	+ 581,208

MORRIS MOTORS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1931.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
Ord. shares, £1	2,000,000	...
7½% cum. pref., £1	3,000,000	...
Creditors	502,799	+ 180,053
Accrued charges	282,257	+ 58,613
Reserve for contingencies	245,792	− 271,229
Reserve fund	2,000,000	...
Employees savings club	49,589	+ 816
Revenue account	459,331	− 489,824
Subs. Co., Morris (New S. Wales)	13,594	+ 13,594
Total	8,553,362	− 507,977

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
Cash	532,377	− 12,986
Debtors	316,722	+ 31,079
Stocks	1,122,891	− 190,765
Govt. securities at market value	2,854,007	+ 51,382
Other investments	1,066,273	+ 58,900
Morris Oxford Prs.	42,354	+ 42,354
Plant	833,210	− 75,875
Leasehold land, &c.	146,174	− 16
Freehold land, &c.	1,038,422	+ 5,069
Expenditure on buildings, &c.	932	− 26,076
Goodwill	600,000	− 391,043
Total	8,553,362	− 507,977

VICKERS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1931.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
5% Pref. Stk.	750,000	...
5% Pref. £1	750,000	...
5% (Tax free) Pref. £1	6,863,807	...
Ord. Shares (6/8) fully pd.	4,105,161	...
Reserve	1,000,000	...
Capital reserve	2,500,000	...
5% Deb. Stk.	1,250,000	...
5½% Deb. Stk.	2,000,000	...
Int. accrued	30,453	− 3,244
Creditors	1,334,667	− 284,292
Owing to Subsidiaries	119,143	− 204,296
Final Pref. Divs.	198,783	− 1,875
Profit and Loss	386,273	− 194,217
Total	21,380,287	− 591,924

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
Investments in Vickers-Armstrongs	6,732,870	...
Metropolitan-Cammell Co.	2,586,221	− 100,000
Other Subsidiaries	3,542,819	− 160,000
Debtors	675,741	+ 433,725
Owing by Subsidiaries	1,853,115	− 419,966
Investments in Unquoted Securities	143,914	− 2,500
Quoted Securities	113,104	− 92,435
Bills receivable	1,612,736	+1,492,905
Cash	553,628	− 678,854
British Govt. Securities	3,560,448	−1,063,148
Colonial Govt. Securities	5,689	− 601
Total	21,380,287	− 591,924

OIL OUTPUTS.

ANGLO-ECUADORIAN OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—The production for February is cabled as 14,555 tons.

THE ATTOCK OIL COMPANY LIMITED.—Production for February: 12,476 barrels.

THE BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY, LTD.—A cablegram has been received from Burma reporting the production of crude oil by this company for the month of February as 27,646 barrels.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended March 23rd: Venezuela, 39,078 barrels; Trinidad, 36,080 barrels; total, 75,158 barrels. Increase of the production in Venezuela due to bringing in a new well at Media.

HAMILTON'S OIL CONCESSIONS (ROUMANIA), LTD.—Cabled advice has been received from Bucharest as follows: "Production for the month of February, 1932, 7,277 tons, equals 50,939 barrels."

THE KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA, LTD.—The total production during the month of February amounted to 83,998 barrels, or approximately 11,999 tons.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Year Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.		
					Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.			Net Profits.	Dividends.
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Anglo-Portuguese Colonial and Overseas Bank	Jan. 31	3,810	*Dr. 22,286*	*Dr. 18,476*	...	...	...	...	*Dr 18,476*	22,447	-
Breweries.											
Style and Winch	Dec. 31	112,305	162,691	274,996	21,897	112,500	22½	25,000	115,599	140,746	20
Canals and Docks.											
Sharpness New Docks, &c.	Dec. 31	...	18,055	18,055	10,950	...	...	7,105	...	17,653	-
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Brompton and Kensington Electricity	Dec. 31	1,604	40,013	41,617	454	31,847	1/8·4694	9,316	...	40,397	0·473
Lancashire Electric Light, &c.	Dec. 31	7,957	(t)168,433	176,390	61,952	63,000	7	7,000	44,438	...	-
Llanelly and District Electric	Dec. 31	3,481	37,573	41,054	13,392	6,000	4	18,440	3,222	41,691	4
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Dolphin Hotel & Restaurant	Dec. 31	1,186	2,463	3,649	1,913	...	...	...	1,736	400	-
Waldorf Hotel Company	Jan. 31	8,616	16,407	25,023	15,000	...	...	...	10,023	42,196	10
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Baldwins, Ltd.	Dec. 31	27,084	*Dr. 45,995*	*Dr. 18,911*	...	...	...	*Dr. 20,000*	1,089	119,396	-
Coltness Iron Company	Dec. 31	148,688	101,235	249,923	25,750	63,000	8	5,000	156,173	194,577	10
Edinburgh Collieries	Jan. 31	*Dr. 97,615*	*Dr. 18,085*	*Dr. 115700*	...	...	...	...	*Dr 11,676*	*Dr 28,118*	-
Hadfields, Ltd.	Dec. 31	62,202	*Dr. 36,206*	25,996	...	...	...	...	25,996	*Dr 16,884*	-
Lancashire Steel Corporation	Dec. 31	3,913	53,367	57,280	...	...	...	55,030	2,250	19,367	-
Maclellan (P. and W.)	Dec. 31	874	*Dr. 28,737*	*Dr. 27,863*	...	...	...	*Dr. 33,500*	5,637	*Dr. 1,876*	-
Partington Steel and Iron	Dec. 31	*Dr. 20,459*	*Dr. 21,396*	*Dr. 41,855*	...	...	...	...	*Dr 41,855*	*Dr 39,455*	-
Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron	Dec. 31	*Dr. 725*	1,629	903	...	...	...	...	903	...	-
Stephenson (Robert) and Co.	Dec. 31	19,285	*Dr. 3,690*	15,595	...	8,250	4	*Dr. 10,000*	17,345	12,172	5
Vickers, Ltd.	Dec. 31	231,970	574,493	806,463	418,190	153,944	5	...	234,329	775,985	8
Wigan Coal Corporation	Dec. 31	436	4,461	4,897	...	...	...	...	4,897	5,441	-
Motor and Cycle.											
Morris Motors, Ltd.	Dec. 31	258,112	426,219	684,331	225,000	100,000	5†	100,000	259,331	1,055,403	100
Rolls-Royce, Ltd.	Dec. 31	65,148	144,197	209,345	...	82,581	10	55,000	71,764	147,170	10
Rubber, &c.											
Batu Caves Rubber	Dec. 31	9,534	*Dr. 866*	8,668	...	...	...	1,615	7,053	872	-
Damansara (Selangor) Rub'r	Dec. 31	8,563	*Dr. 4,141*	4,422	...	...	...	...	4,422	1,433	-
Java Amalgamated Rubber	Dec. 31	1,414	*Dr. 8,831*	*Dr. 7,417*	...	...	...	*Dr. 9,000*	1,583	*Dr 17,766*	-
Kuala Kangsor Plantations	Oct. 31	*Dr. 698*	*Dr. 3,329*	*Dr. 4,027*	...	...	...	*Dr. 2,000*	*Dr. 2,027*	*Dr. 7,866*	-
Pataling Rubber Estates	Dec. 31	15,119	6,019	21,138	...	4,500	2	2,000	14,638	13,360	4
Shipping.											
Cunard Steamship	Dec. 31	278,867	*Dr553,204*	*Dr.274337*	67,500	...	...	*Dr350,000*	8,163	18,601	-
Shops and Stores.											
Baker (Charles) and Co.	Jan. 31	*Dr. 52,223*	1,914	*Dr. 50,309*	...	...	...	...	*Dr 50,309*	353	-
Barker (John) and Co.	Jan. 31	300,954	462,540	763,494	46,175	221,266	20	195,000	301,053	466,140	20
Bradleys (Chepstow Place)	Jan. 16	126,904	29,246	156,150	16,500	20,000	5	...	119,650	66,603	15
Lewis (John) and Company	Jan. 31	12,207	88,558	100,765	52,500	35,000	5	...	13,265	80,057	5
Tea.											
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Tea	Dec. 31	6,928	36,921	43,849	3,784	36,035	20	...	4,030	50,827	25
Travancore Tea Estates	Sept. 30	5,103	1,016	6,119	5,828	...	...	*Dr. 5,572*	5,863	14,594	7½
Telegraphs, &c.											
Anglo-Portuguese Telephone	Dec. 31	54,768	58,537	113,305	...	51,965	8	20,000	41,340	60,250	8
Ericsson Telephones	Dec. 31	21,135	44,442	65,577	13,998	27,003	12	...	24,576	88,713	12
Trust.											
Investors' Trust Association	Feb. 29	11,322	24,435	35,757	14,062	7,032	2½	...	14,663	35,345	5
Lonsdale Investment Trust	Dec. 31	14,404	97,572	111,976	16,000	75,375	25	5,000	15,601	...	-
Standard Property Investm't	Dec. 31	1,096	6,666	7,762	...	2,700	12	3,892	1,170	6,461	11
Other Companies.											
Argus Press, Ltd.	Dec. 31	2,770	58,146	60,916	6,662	36,000	24	15,000	3,254	56,733	22
Bowater (W. V.) and Sons	Dec. 31	19,378	45,113	64,491	16,000	12,000	8	12,500	23,991	44,694	8
British Aluminium Co.	Dec. 31	47,496	172,428	219,924	60,000	50,052	5	60,000	49,872	305,540	10
Canning Town Glass Works	Dec. 31	11,309	20,827	32,136	...	14,350	4	7,000	10,786	34,522	5
Dickinson (John) and Co.	Dec. 31	70,254	174,666	244,920	17,500	111,177	8	44,475	71,768	183,653	10
Dwyer and Company	Jan. 31	19,753	5,416	25,169	1,402	5,500	10†	...	18,267	10,932	100
Knight (John), Ltd.	Dec. 31	68,336	258,522	326,858	125,000	90,000	30	...	111,858	211,997	20
Mellersh and Neale	Dec. 31	8,528	15,266	23,794	...	10,151	15	5,000	8,643	14,286	15
Pettigrew and Stephens	Feb. 19	20,692	31,296	51,988	7,250	20,400	15	5,000	19,338	32,797	15
Rowntree and Company	Dec. 31	103,096	176,154	279,250	154,800	18,750	7½	...	105,700	171,000	10
United Kingdom Tobacco	Dec. 31	*Dr. 19,148*	30,061	11,913	7,500	...	...	...	3,413	*Dr 23,732*	-

† Free of income tax. (t) For nine months.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

The directors of the National Mutual Life Assurance Society have appointed Mr E. H. Davenport to be a director of the society, subject to re-election at the next annual general meeting. Mr Davenport, who has been connected with Messrs Rowe and Pitman for some years, is well known as a writer and lecturer on the practical aspects of finance.

GOVERNMENT, &c.

CONVERSION OF 15s. 6d. SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.—EXTENSION OF CONVERSION PERIOD.—The Treasury announce that the offers of conversion now open to holders of savings certificates issued prior to April 1, 1922 (i.e., the first issue of certificates issued at 15s. 6d.), will remain open for a short time after March 31st in order to give full opportunity of converting to the holders of the very large number of certificates which reach their tenth year maturity in the last days of March. The definite closing date of the offers will be announced shortly.

MINES.

RHOKANA CORPORATION, LTD.; ROAN ANTELOPE COPPER MINES, LTD.; MUFULIRA COPPER MINES, LTD.—A communication has been received from New York stating that 90 per cent. of the copper producers of the world have agreed to a reduction in output for the remaining nine months of 1932, from April 1st, to 30 per cent. of capacity. Rhokana Corporation, Ltd., Roan Antelope Copper Mines, Ltd., and Mufulira Copper Mines, Ltd., will therefore restrict their production accordingly. This co-operative effort is intended to bring current production below consumption and includes arrangements for an orderly liquidation of existing stocks.

RAILWAYS.

[illegible] OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—For receipts for 11 weeks see our usual traffic column.

[illegible]		Miles Open.	Gross Receipts, week ended March 20, 1932. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate Gross Receipts, 11 weeks. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
[illegible]	1932	3,761	170	182	116	298	468	1,767	1,945	1226	3,171	4,938
	1931	3,761	175	198	119	317	492	1,927	2,068	1212	3,280	5,207
[illegible]	1932	[illegible]	[illegible]	330	254	584	840	2,720	3,417	2733	6,150	8,870
	1931	[illegible]	[illegible]	360	259	619	885	2,932	3,784	2899	6,683	9,615
[illegible]	1932	[illegible]	[illegible]	452	274	726	1,129	4,116	4,911	2887	7,798	11,914
	1931	[illegible]	[illegible]	500	275	775	1,175	4,317	5,200	3169	8,369	12,686
[illegible]	1932	2,181	236	68	37	105	341	2,531	690	385	1,075	3,606
	1931	2,180	249	76	34	110	359	2,717	769	381	1,150	3,867
Total	1932	[illegible]	1,065	1032	681	1713	2,778	11134	10963	7231	18,194	29,328
	1931	19849	1,090	1134	687	1821	2,911	11893	11821	7661	19,482	31,375
[illegible]	1932	59	29·2	...	...	3·5	32·7	320·6	...	...	40·2	360·8
	1931	59	30·8	...	...	3·8	34·6	340·2	...	...	42·2	382·4
[illegible]	1932	...	285·7	...	...	...	285·7	3191·5	...	...	...	3191·5
	1931	...	302·7	...	...	...	302·7	3274·3	...	...	...	3274·3
[illegible]	1932	...	26·4	...	...	...	26·4	287·4	...	...	...	287·4
	1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
[illegible]	1932	...	41·7	...	...	...	41·7	464·8	...	...	...	464·8
	1931	...	44·3	...	...	...	44·3	474·8	...	...	...	474·8
[illegible]	1932	80	1·7	...	...	0·7	2·4	19·9	...	...	7·7	27·6
	1931	80	1·9	...	...	0·7	2·6	21·2	...	...	7·18	29·0
[illegible]	1932	562	9·1	...	...	13·7	22·8	95·5	...	...	143·4	238·9
	1931	562	10·8	...	...	16·3	27·1	104·9	...	...	159·4	264·3
[illegible]	1932	2,182	20·3	...	...	37·8	58·1	209·1	...	...	405·5	614·6
	1931	2,182	22·0	...	...	43·1	65·1	226·3	...	...	468·1	694·4

* The operations of these Companies were extended during 1931.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY, LIMITED.—The trading profit for year 1931 amounted to £412,143, against £1,054,286 for 1930. The sum of £506,360 is brought in from preceding year, making [illegible] available, as compared with £1,312,793. The sum of [illegible] is put to depreciation, against £43,556. Obsolescence reserve £14,000, against £13,775. Directors' fees, etc., amount to [illegible], against £18,352. Taxation reserve receives £217,416, against [illegible]. Loss on exchange amounted to £170,329, against [illegible]. Loss on trading abroad for period December, 1928, to date amounted to £29,905. No dividend is being paid on ordinary shares, against 10 per cent. for each of the two preceding years. For 1929 the ordinary dividend absorbed £560,000 and for 1930 [illegible]. The carry-forward is reduced from £506,360 to [illegible]. Cash is higher at £1,055,150, against £894,001. British Government securities appear at £377,949, but they have since been sold at a higher figure. Debtors total £513,263, against £331,108. Stocks are at [illegible], against £775,838. The company's activities have now been transferred from Manchester to Dagenham. The meeting will be held at Dagenham, Essex, on April 8 at 11 a.m.

Commercial Reports.

MARKET SUMMARY.

The principal international commodity markets have been under the influence of the Easter holidays. The trend of gold prices has been [illegible], but on the whole values in the United States have been a little steadier than before the holidays. Among non-ferrous metals, the New York quotations for copper and spelter have been maintained. On the other hand, lead and tin have been easier. Among textile raw materials, cotton has declined further. Rubber failed to recover from the low level of 3¼ cents per lb. reached a week ago. Assurances to the effect that the Farm Board did not contemplate a change in policy regarding the liquidation of stocks, resulted in a slight recovery in wheat prices. On the other hand, maize, oats and rye advanced sharply. Coffee has been steady and sugar advanced a few points following the announcement by the International Sugar Council that agreement had been reached to adjust supplies to current demand. Sterling quotations of commodities which lend themselves to grading and therefore to international arbitrage, advanced in proportion to the rise in the value of sterling in terms of gold. According to reports from the industrial centres, the coal trade, and the iron and steel industries are making little headway, and in many cases the holiday stoppage was prolonged until Tuesday and Wednesday. The fall in raw cotton prices appears to have caused a slight setback in the activity of the manufacturing section of the trade. Business in [illegible] has been maintained.

THE COAL TRADE.

SHEFFIELD.—The demand for South Yorkshire coal of every description [illegible]. Nevertheless, prices of best steams [illegible] 15s. 6d. to 16s. f.o.b. The inland prices [illegible] pit-head. There is an increased call for [illegible] the industrial section generally remains weak. Demand for house coal has eased and prices are being cut. Best South Yorkshire ordinary house is variously quoted from 21s. 6d. to 23s. Consumption of blast furnace coke is less than in the earlier part of the year.

GLASGOW.—There is nothing fresh to report of the Scottish coal trade. Business in both the home and the export markets is tending to slacken off, and in one or two directions the collieries are willing to shade their prices a little. This applies, perhaps, more to nuts than to round sorts, doubles being a weak feature in the East of Scotland districts. A fair forward inquiry is circulating, but for the time being little business results. Prices show little change, the shipping quotations being about the following (f.o.b. district ports): LANARKSHIRE—Ell best, 14s. 6d.; splint best, 16s.; splint second, 14s. 3d.; navigation, 15s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 15s. 6d.; steam, 13s.-13s. 3d.; trebles, 12s.-12s. 6d.; doubles, 10s. 6d.; singles, 9s. 6d.; pearls, 9s.; dross, 9s. FIFE—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s.-12s. 3d.; third-class steam, 11s. 3d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.-13s. 6d.; doubles, 10s. 3d.-10s. 6d.; singles, 9s. 3d.-9s. 6d.; pearls, 9s. LOTHIANS—Prime steam, 11s. 9d.-12s.; secondary steam, 11s. 6d.; trebles, 11s. 6d.-12s.; doubles, 10s.; singles, 9s. 6d.; pearls, 9s. 6d. AYRSHIRE—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 16s. 6d.; steam, 13s.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 10s. 9d.; singles, 9s. 9d.; pearls, 9s.; dross, 9s.

CARDIFF.—Owing to the intervention of the holidays there has been very little business transacted on the Cardiff coal market this week. The collieries did not resume working till Wednesday night, and the output for the week will probably be less than 50 per cent. of a normal week's production. Prices are nominally unaltered. There has been little improvement in the dock position, and on Wednesday morning the returns of the Great Western Railway Company showed that there were 31 tips idle and 61 working.

IRON AND STEEL.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Business has been almost suspended owing to the holidays, and the usual weekly market was not held on Tuesday. Most consuming works were closed down on Monday and Tuesday, but have now restarted. The blast-furnaces were, of course, kept in operation right through, but the accumulation of pig iron at producers' works was not large and will soon be absorbed by current deliveries, which are expected to increase. Official prices for Cleveland are unchanged, viz.: No. 1, 61s.; No. 3, 58s. 6d.; No. 4 foundry, 57s. 6d., and No. 4 forge, 57s., f.o.b. or f.o.t. Hematite is just the turn firmer, and makers are not now inclined to go below 63s. 6d. for ordinary mixed numbers for early delivery. Some fair shipments of this iron have recently been made, and the price is inclined to harden rather than go lower. Shipments of pig iron have improved lately, the total of all kinds cleared to 29th instant being 12,529 tons against 10,468 tons for the whole of February. There is no demand for ore, and deliveries are on a reduced scale. Best rubio is nominally 15s. 6d. c.i.f., and the current freight for early tonnage, Bilbao-Middlesbrough, is about 4s. 9d. Imports of all kinds of ore into Middlesbrough to 29th instant amount to 38,617 tons against 52,154 tons for the whole month of February. In the finished departments there is little of importance to report, as the works only resumed to-day. Some further orders for rails on home account are expected to be placed in this district very shortly, and there is other substantial business under negotiation. Prices are unchanged. Coke continues in excess of requirements, and the price is weak at 16s. delivered works for ordinary blast-furnace qualities. The number of blast-furnaces in operation in the district remains at 17.

SHEFFIELD.—There has been a partial resumption of operations at the local iron and steel works this week, but the heavy sections are still idle. Orders booked since the stoppage for semi-steel and heavy forgings and castings have been inconsiderable. In this direction no revival is in sight. In the lighter and finished branches, business is steadily expanding, but exchange movements are hindering overseas business, both inward and outward. The comparative absence of foreign competition in saws, files, and various kinds of hand tools, local makers are booking increased orders from the merchants of this country. As foreign stocks are liquidated, this tendency will be still more marked. Trade in table cutlery and silver and electro-plate has never been so bad. Activity is reported in cold wrought steel strip, drop stampings, safety razors, scissors and precision tools. The season for garden tools develops slowly, and is below the average at present. Users of mild steel are demanding lower prices of billets, blooms and slabs.

GLASGOW.—There are no signs of improvement in the iron and steel trades in the West of Scotland this week. The Easter stoppage—which usually is a one-day holiday here—has been prolonged this year, and many of the plants have been closed down for several days. Buyers of every class of material seem to be holding back, and there is very little business being placed for either home or export. Continental semis are being offered at still further reductions in price, being a few shillings per ton less than last week's quotations, but very little business is being done. At the tube-making plants the position is unaltered, and bar-iron makers and makers of re-rolled steel bars report no increased demand. At the sheet-rolling mills, too, the bookings are rather light, both in black and galvanised.

CARDIFF.—The Easter holidays have interrupted business in the South Wales iron and steel trades. There was no meeting on the Swansea Metal Exchange on Tuesday, and prices are nominally unchanged. In the steel bar import trade, conditions continue very inactive, and deliveries last week totalled only 4,884 tons compared with 5,744 tons in the previous week, and 14,680 tons in the corresponding period last year.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—According to the Metallgesellschaft A.G., the mine production of tin in February, at 7,553 tons, shows a reduction of 2,090 tons on January. The New York market has not been active, but prices were maintained. On the other hand, the advance in the gold price of sterling was accompanied by heavy selling at declining quotations. In New York the metal was quoted at 21·20 cents per lb. on Wednesday, against 21·75 cents per lb. a week ago and 22·15 a month ago. Wednesday's official closing quotations in London, in terms of sterling for "standard" cash, at £120 10s. to £120 15s. per ton, compares with £127 15s. to £128 on the corresponding day last week. Stocks in London and Liverpool at the end of last week, at 33,510 tons, show an increase of 40 tons on the week.

COPPER.—A communication having been received from New York stating that 90 per cent. of the copper producers of the world have agreed to a reduction in output for the nine months of 1932 from April 1 to 20 per cent. of capacity, Rhokana Corporation, Roan Antelope Copper Mines, and Mufulira Copper Mines will, therefore, it is announced, reduce their production accordingly. This co-operative effort aims at bringing current production below consumption, and includes arrangements for an orderly liquidation of existing stocks. Business in copper has been on a small scale,, but prices were maintained at last week's level. On Wednesday, "Domestic" spot was quoted at 6 cents per lb. in New York against 6 cents a week ago, and 5¾ cents a month ago. Wednesday's official closing price for "standard cash" in London, in terms of sterling at £31 12s. 6d. to £31 15s., compares with £32 16s. 3d. to £32 17s. 6d. a week ago. Stocks of refined copper in British official warehouses at the end of last week, at 21,085 tons, show a decrease of 28 tons, while stocks of rough copper, at 950 tons, are 75 tons smaller.

LEAD.—The market in lead was quiet, and prices declined a few points both in New York and London. In New York the metal was quoted at 3·00 cents per lb. on Wednesday, against 3·15 cents a week ago, and 3·25 cents a month ago. Wednesday's official closing quotation for "soft foreign" in London in terms of sterling, at £11 15s. per ton for shipment during the current month compares with £12 on the corresponding day last week.

SPELTER.—The demand for spelter has been poor, and quotations in London declined under selling pressure. According to the Metallgesellschaft A.G., the daily average smelting output of spelter in February at 2,329, shows an increase of 8 tons per day on January. Wednesday's quotation in New York, at 2·80 cents per lb., compares with 2·775 cents a week ago and 2·75 cents a month earlier. Wednesday's official closing quotation in London in terms of sterling for "good ordinary brands" was £11 15s. per ton for shipment during the current month, against £12 8s. 9d. a week ago.

OTHER NON-FERROUS METALS.—Among other non-ferrous metals the quotation for aluminium has been maintained at £95 per ton. Nickel declined from £230-£235 per ton to £220-£225. Foreign antimony was reduced from £28-£28 10s. to £27 10s.-£28. Platinum, at £10 6s. per ounce, shows a reduction of 7s. per ounce on the week.

TEXTILES.

THE COTTON TRADE.—Liverpool.—Imports for the week March 24th to 30th (inclusive) are 45,840 bales, of which 31,807 bales are American, 362 Peruvian, 11,052 Egyptian, 225 East Indian, 50 Argentine, and 2,344 sundries.

Manchester.—The Easter holidays and the fall in cotton prices followed by wide fluctuations, have had a disturbing effect upon business in the market. Numerous buyers have been in the mood to hold aloof, and quotations of producers have been irregular when tested. Mail advices from India continue fairly encouraging, but new business in piece goods remains on a smaller scale than a week or two ago. Scattered transactions, however, have taken place in light fabrics and fancies, chiefly for Calcutta and Karachi. There has not been any development in the demand for China, but exports continue on a free scale. Miscellaneous sales have occurred for several minor outlets, East and West, but individual contracts have not been at all important. There has not been much activity in home trade fabrics. Owing to the fall in values, manufacturers are very anxious to keep up to contract time with deliveries, as there is a danger of cancellations if goods are late. Quotations in American and Egyptian yarns have been irregular, and trade has been of limited dimensions. It is difficult at the moment for most spinners to prevent loss of ground.

Cotton Prices.

	1932.				Corresponding Date.	
	Mar. 9.	Mar. 16.	Mar. 22.	Mar. 30.	1930.	1931.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ...... per lb.	5·31	5·46	5·33	4·94	8·80	5·85
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian .... per lb.	7·10	7·50	7·25	6·80	14·25	9·40
Yarns—32's twist .... per lb.	9¼	9¼	9¼	8¾	12⅝	9⅝
" 40's weft .... per lb.	9½	9½	9½	9¼	13⅛	10
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ...... per lb.	14¾	15	15	14½	21⅛	17
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	18 0	18 0	18 0	17 6	22 3	18 9
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	20 3	20 3	20 3	19 9	26 10½	20 6
39-in. ditto, 38 yds., 16 by 16, 10 lb.	11 1½	11 1½	11 1	10 10	15 7½	11 7
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb.......	10 1½	10 1½	10 1	9 10	12 3	10 6

THE WOOL TRADE.—Bradford.—Business has been partly suspended this week, and, writes our correspondent, there is no new feature in the situation. Nothing has happened to give a strong turn to the market for wool and tops. Just before the recess cable information came to hand, which suggested the desirability of topmakers standing out very firmly for their then current quotations, and one or two firms whose merino tops are a household name on the market, were refusing to accept anything less than [illegible] for warp 64's. They were influenced in this chiefly by the information received from Geelong, but that centre does not dictate to Bradford like Sydney, though some very good wools are obtainable there. The weakness in the latter centre reported this week seems to have had a slightly depressing effect here, but generally speaking traders are satisfied that there is a big consumption of all qualities of wool down to 50's. As regards crossbred wool, it will not be easy to pass all the current supplies into consumption. The reasonable prices at which B.A. crossbreds are being offered to merchants here does not induce them to buy any big weights, and it looks as if further slight concessions in price will have to be granted before the business now pending is concluded.

THE JUTE TRADE.—Dundee.—The jute industry is still passing through very quiet times, and this is resulting in a general decline in values of practically all commodities. The Calcutta goods market has displayed distinct weakness recently, due to lack of demand, and values of heavy goods especially slumped to a considerable extent when the market reopened after the Easter holidays. Prices of raw jute were affected, though sellers are not pressing for business on account of the uncertainty surrounding the new crop. Propaganda for the restriction of sowings of the fibre for next season has been circulated freely amongst the growers, and this is expected to have the effect of curtailing the next crop to about the dimensions of the present one. The imports into Calcutta this season so far are just equal to the quantity of jute estimated from this crop, but a fair quantity of this must include old crop carried forward from the previous season, of which a considerable quantity was carried forward up-country. Not many offers are being made from Calcutta to this market, owing to the apathy of spinners. Good First Marks are nominal at £21, and Lightnings at £19, while Fuji-M First Mark is offered at £19 17s. 6d., and Asahi Lightning at £19 5s., April-May shipment, with Triangle Jajodia Lightning quoted at £18 15s. afloat. Motilal Tossa assortment is offered at £17 15s. afloat, and also April shipment. Spinners are not interested in shipment material, and only a few small lots are being picked up from the plentiful supply of jute on spot. Jute yarn business is so small that spinners are compelled to resort to further curtailment of production. A number of large works are off this week, and the general method of working now appears to be only on alternate weeks. Prices continue more or less nominal. Buyers are unwilling to pay 1s. 11d. for common 8 lb. cops and 2s. for 8 lb. spools, though a few spinners would accept these very unprofitable rates. The majority are still holding for 2s. for cops and 2s. 1d. for spools. Twist is very firm, because of a large business done in this commodity. The value of 3 ply 8 lb. is lowest at 3¼d., but up to 3½d. is obtainable for the better class spins. Sacking yarns are quiet at 2⅞d. for 24 lb. weft and 3⅛d. for 8 lb. chains, while Rove is of small interest at from £16 15s. for 200 lb. and £19 for 48 lb. The fine yarns are dull and nominal, and carpet 14 lb. warp is steady at from 3½d. to 3⅝d. Only trifling lots of jute cloth are being bought, and the prices accepted by manufacturers are very irregular. Quotations rule from 2 11/16d. for 10½ oz. 40 in. and from 1 15/16d. for 8 oz. in the narrow widths, but ⅛d. more can be got for the wide widths. Linoleum hessians are very slow, and only a very small trade is being done in heavy goods. Calcutta hessians were sold at 19s. for 10 oz. 40 in. and 14s. 9d. for 8 oz. April shipment. Liverpool twills were quoted down to 53s. and "B" twills at 47s. for April to September.

THE GRAIN MARKETS.

WHEAT.—In view of the Easter holidays business at the international wheat markets has been on a small scale during the past week. The sharp fall in wheat prices which was caused by rumours that the Federal Farm Board intended to dispose of its holdings has given way to a firmer tendency when it was announced that no change in policy was contemplated So far, quotations have, however, not recovered to the level prevailing during recent weeks. Meanwhile, supplies of home-grown wheat are running short in Continental countries. France's foreign milling quota has again been increased from 35 per cent. to 40 per cent. It is expected that France, Italy and Germany will have to buy substantial quantities before the new harvest becomes available. The market in this country was not very active, but prices declined in proportion to the rise in the gold value of sterling. On Wednesday, "May" futures were quoted at 52¾ cents per bushel in Chicago, against [illegible] cents on the corresponding day last week, and 57¾ cents a month ago. Quotations in London, Wednesday: No. 1 Northern Manitoba, Vancouver, ex ship, 32s. per 496 lbs., as compared with 32s. 6d. a week ago; No. 2 Northern Manitoba, Vancouver, ex ship, 31s., against 32s. 6d.; No. 3 Northern Manitoba, Vancouver, ex ship, 29s., against 29s. 6d.; Russian, on sample, 25s. 6d. to 27s., against 28s. 6d. to 30s.; Australian, ex ship, 27s. 6d. to 28s., against 28s. 6d. to 29s. a week ago.

WHEAT FLOUR.—International trade in flour has been on a small scale. The demand in this country has been small, although both home-milled and foreign flour were offered at lower prices. North American shipments, at 121,000 sacks, showed a decrease of [illegible] sacks as compared with the previous week. Of this total, only 14,000 sacks have been consigned to Europe. Quotations in London Wednesday: Straight run, delivered country, [illegible] per sack of 280 lbs.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862 on the 23rd March, 1866.

ESTABLISHED IN CALCUTTA, 29th SEPTEMBER, 1863.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund	£2,200,000
Issued Capital	£2,000,000	Number of Shareholders	2,320

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, KARACHI, MADRAS, NEW DELHI, AMRITSAR, CAWNPORE, DELHI.

LAHORE. TUTICORIN. COCHIN. RANGOON. MANDALAY. COLOMBO. KANDY. NUWARA ELIYA.

ADEN. STEAMER POINT, ADEN. ZANZIBAR. MOMBASA, NAIROBI, NAKURU, KISUMU, ELDORET — Kenya Colony — British East Africa.

ENTEBBE, KAMPALA, JINJA — Uganda.

TANGA, DAR-ES-SALAAM — Tanganyika Territory.

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GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1931.

The Rupee Assets and Liabilities have been converted at the rate of 1s. 6d. per Rupee.

Dr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Capital: Authorised and Subscribed, 160,000 Shares of £25 each, £4,000,000 paid up £12 10s. per share	2,000,000 0 0		By Cash on hand, at call and at Bankers	3,796,408 1 9	
To Reserve Fund	2,200,000 0 0		By Bullion on hand and in Transit ...	23,054 2 10	
To Current, Fixed Deposit and other Accounts, including provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts and Contingencies	27,804,022 4 7				3,819,462 4 7
To Bills Payable	757,989 0 7		By Indian Government Rupee Securities		4,580,655 8 10
To Acceptances for Customers	182,249 2 9		By British Government Securities, Indian Government Guaranteed Debentures and other Securities (of which £200,000 War Loan lodged with Bank of England as Security for Government Accounts) ...		8,265,709 8 3
To Loans Payable against Securities	1,752,500 0 0		By House Property and Furniture (at cost, less amounts written off)		649,499 13 7
To Profit and Loss Account, as under	546,209 19 6		By Bills of Exchange including Treasury Bills		5,032,212 13 2
			By Discounts, Loans Receivable, and other sums due to the Bank		12,012,718 16 3
	£35,242,577 7 5		By Customers for Acceptances per Contra...		182,249 2 9
					£35,242,577 7 5

Bills receivable, re-discounted, £3,126,504 12s. 4d., of which up to 16th [illegible] 1932, £2,422,000 8s. 4d. have run off. Forward contracts outstanding for Purchase and Sale of Sterling Bills and Telegraphic Transfers, £2,000 14s. 7d.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December, 1931.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended 30th June, 1931 ...	200,000 0 0	By Balance at 31st December, 1930		558,791 0 11
To Balance of Management at Head Office and Branches, including Directors' Fees, £6,227 12s.	612,140 19 1	DEDUCT— Dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended 31st December, 1930	£200,000 0 0	
To Balance	546,209 19 6	Officers' Pension Fund	50,000 0 0	
		Contingencies Account	30,000 0 0	
				280,000 0 0
		Balance brought forward		278,791 0 11
		By Gross Profits for the year ended 31st December, 1931, after providing for all Bad and Doubtful Debts ...		1,082,189 17 8
	£1,360,350 18 7			£1,360,350 18 7

W. ROSS MUNRO, General Manager.
G. B. LINTON, Sub-Manager and Accountant.

C. C. McLEOD, W. SHAKSPEARE, C. NICOLL, } Directors.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS.

We have audited the above Balance Sheet with the Books in London and the certified Returns from the Branches. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is full and fair, containing the particulars required by the Regulations of the Company, and is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company.

London, 30th March, 1932.

COOPER BROTHERS AND CO., W. A. BROWNE AND CO., Chartered Accountants. } Auditors.

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as compared with 27s. last week; delivered London, 25s., against 26s. Manitoba patents, ex store, 25s. 6d. to 28s., against 26s. to 28s.; and Australian, ex store, 20s. 6d. to 22s., against 21s. to 22s. 6d. a week ago.

BARLEY.—The demand for barley was quiet. On Wednesday, "May" futures were quoted at 40⅞ cents per bushel in Winnipeg, against 39⅞ cents last week and 42½ cents a month ago. Quotations in London, Wednesday: "English feedings," f.o.r., per 448 lbs., 27s. to 28s., as compared with 27s. to 28s.; Russian, landed, 23s. 6d. per 400 lbs., against 24s. a week ago.

OATS.—Foreign oats are in small demand in this country. Continental buying has also been on a smaller scale, and Argentina has reduced her exports as large quantities on passage to Europe remain unsold. "May" futures, which last week stood at 23⅞ cents per bushel in Chicago, sold at 24½ cents per bushel on Wednesday this week, against 22 cents a month ago. Quotations in London, Tuesday: "River Plate," landed, 17s. 9d. per 320 lbs., as compared with 18s. last week; "River Plate," ex ship, 16s. 9d., against 17s.; "Chilean White," landed, 27s., against 27s. a week ago.

MAIZE.—There has been little change in the international situation of maize. The Continent continues to absorb readily the smaller shipments from Argentina. Wednesday's quotation in Chicago for "May" futures, at 37 cents, shows an increase of 3½ cents on last week, and an advance of 1 cent as compared with the price a month earlier. Quotations in London, Wednesday: "Plate," landed, 20s. 6d. per 480 lbs., compared with 21s. last week; "Plate," ex ship, 19s. 9d., as against 20s. 3d.; "Plate," March-April, 19s. 3d., as against 19s. 9d. Yellow maize meal, ex wharf, was quoted at £5 17s. 6d. per ton against £6 a week ago.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.—The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1931–32, 1930–31, 1929–30, 1928–29:—

	1931–1932.	1930–1931.	1929–1930.	1928–1929.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to March 26	81,082	121,780	182,769	105,458
30 weeks to March 26	2,330,227	3,6 0,137	7,352,306	7,982,138
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 6 1	s. d. 5 2	s. d. 8 3	s. d. 9 9

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1928 to 1931:—

Weeks ended	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Mar. 19, 1932	127,075	108,697	55,411	6 1	8 3	7 5
Mar. 26, 1932	81,082	42,701	29,198	6 1	8 1	7 5
Mar. 24, 1928	277,834	126,543	64,001	9 10	10 10	10 9
Mar. 23, 1929	203,739	108,456	58,074	9 9	10 2	9 8
Mar. 29, 1930	182,769	125,678	29,852	8 3	7 10	5 11
Mar. 28, 1931	121,780	59,508	38,360	5 2	7 3	5 10

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.—The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1930:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 2, 1931.	Mar. 31, 1931.	Jan. 4, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 30, 1932.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba)—Cents per 60 lb.	148⅜	56½	57⅞	62¼	60⅞	61½
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)—Cents per 60 lb.	130⅞	79⅝	61⅞	55¼	50⅞	52⅞

The visible supply of wheat in Canada, at 63,086,000 bushels, shows an increase on the week of 254,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 64,989,000 bushels.

OTHER FOODS.

SUGAR.—According to the International Sugar Council, the negotiations for a further reduction in the output of sugar have now been brought to a successful conclusion on the following terms: The Cuban crop for 1932 has been fixed by the President of the Republic at about 2,700,000 long tons. The European and Peruvian parties to the International Agreement have undertaken to reduce the export quotas fixed for them under the agreement during the year ending September 1, 1932, and/or the year ending September 1, 1933 (for Peru the years ending December 31, 1932 and 1933), by any amount by which Java's effective exports during the year April 1, 1932–March 31, 1933, exceed 1,500,000 metric tons. The European parties to the agreement will make a corresponding reduction in their sowings for the current year. The council states that the acceptance of these arrangements has overcome all the difficulties which had arisen as a result of the present economic conditions in the execution of the International Sugar Agreement. "May" futures in New York were quoted at 0·75 cent per lb. on Wednesday, against 0·74 cent per lb. a week ago, and 0·82 cent per lb. a month earlier. Wednesday's sales of "raws" include "May delivery" at 5s. 0¾d. per cwt., against 5s. 2¾d., and "December," at 5s. 6¾d. to 5s. 7d., against 5s. 8¾d. to 5s. 9¾d. on the corresponding day last week. The [illegible] in London and Liverpool during last week [illegible] below:—

	Imports. 1932. Tons.	Imports. 1931. Tons.	Deliveries. 1932. Tons.	Deliveries. 1931. Tons.	Stocks. 1932. Tons.	Stocks. 1931. Tons.
London	47	2,154	752	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Liverpool	...	7,350	9,891	16,947	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	47	9,504	10,643	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Last week ...	7,712	5,247	15,059	15,877	[illegible]	[illegible]

COFFEE.—There has been no change in the international [illegible] situation. The market in London was quiet but steady. Last week's movements of coffee in London were as follows: [illegible], landed, 435 bags; delivered for home consumption, 274 bags; exported, 62 bags; stocks, 5,661 bags, against 2,716 bags last year. Central American, landed, 11,050 packages; delivered for home consumption, 2,211; exported, 1,590; stocks, 102,818 packages, against 102,779 a year ago. Other kinds, landed, 7,158 packages; delivered for home consumption, 2,291; exported, [illegible]; stocks, [illegible] packages, against 96,570 a year ago.

COCOA.—After a slight reaction a week ago, the New York market was again firm. London prices were slightly easier owing to the rise in the gold value of sterling. "May" futures were quoted at 4·43 cents per lb. in New York on Wednesday, against 4·31 cents per lb. a week ago and 4·30 cents a month ago. As compared with the corresponding day last week, Wednesday's quotation for Accra fair fermented, new crop, March-May, at 25s. 9d. per cwt. [illegible], London contract, shows a fall of 3d. per cwt. on the week. Last week's movements of cocoa in London were as follows: Landed, 7,309 bags; delivered for home consumption, 3,304 bags; exported, 151; stocks, 168,387 bags, as against 194,449 last year.

TEA.—No auctions were held this week. The private market was steady. The following table shows the average prices (compiled by the Tea Brokers' Association) of tea sold in Mincing Lane on Garden Account:—

Average Price per Lb.

Week ending	Northern India.	Southern India.	Ceylon.	Java.	Sumatra.	Nyasaland.	Total.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Mar. 26, 1931	0 10·74	1 0·72	1 5·06	0 7·13	0 [illegible]	0 [illegible]	0 [illegible]
Mar. 3, 1932	0 11·47	0 9·85	1 1·00	0 7·82	0 7·42	0 [illegible]	0 [illegible]
Mar. 10, "	0 11·63	0 10·78	1 1·51	0 7·66	0 7·25	0 [illegible]	0 [illegible]
Mar. 16 "	0 10·82	0 9·92	1 3·12	...	...	0 [illegible]	1 [illegible]
Mar. 22 "	0 10·88	0 9·32	1 3·87	0 7·39	0 [illegible]	0 [illegible]	0 [illegible]

RICE.—The market in rice was dull. Wednesday's "spot" price at 10s. 3d. per cwt., shows a reduction of 3d. per cwt., while forward positions at 9s. 4½d. fell 6d. per cwt. Movements in London during the past week were as follows: Landed, [illegible] tons; delivered, 66 tons; stocks, 848 tons, as against 526 tons last year.

POTATOES.—The supply of potatoes at the principal markets was again abundant, but, in view of the brisk demand, prices were slightly firmer. At the Borough Market, "Best King Edward" sold from 12s. to 12s. 6d. per cwt., as compared with 11s. 6d. to 12s. per cwt. a week ago.

SPICES.—The market in spices has been steady. Wednesday's quotation for "Black Singapore" pepper, at 6⅞d. per lb., shows no change on the week. Movements of pepper in London during the past week were as follows: Black, landed, 5 tons; delivered, 7 tons; stocks, 303 tons, against 522 tons last year. White, landed, nil; delivered, 55 tons; stocks, 782 tons, against [illegible] tons a year ago.

MEAT.—At the Smithfield Market, both English and Argentine beef has been a little steadier, but mutton and lamb is scarcely changed on the week. On Wednesday, Argentine beef (chilled hindquarters) was sold at 4s. to 4s. 4d. per 8 lbs., against 4s. to 4s. 6d. on the corresponding day last week, while New Zealand frozen mutton realised 2s. 8d. to 3s. 8d., as against 2s. [illegible] to 3s. [illegible] a week ago. According to the Smithfield Market official report, supplies of meat during last week amounted to [illegible] tons, as compared with 8,686 tons in the corresponding week last year. Imported beef, principally Argentine, formed 82·3 per cent. of the supplies, as against 84·1 per cent. a year ago; and imported mutton, mainly New Zealand, formed 78·5 per cent. of the total supply, as against 81·0 per cent. last year.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMODITIES.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.—Very quiet conditions continue in practically every section, and the actual business done small in volume. The sudden appreciation of sterling and exchange fluctuations have made trade difficult. Linseed is in very slow demand, and following the rise in the £ values have been marked down, and are now level with the lowest recorded over many years. Plate for April shipment has been done at £8, current quotations (sellers) now being £8 for April and £8 2s. 6d. May and June. The quantity of linseed now afloat for Europe at 247,600 tons is [illegible] tons less than a week ago, and crushers' wants appear to be well covered, both here and on the Continent. Cottonseed is dull and neglected, black Egyptian for shipment offering at £[illegible] to £[illegible], according to date. Demand for vegetable oils of all descriptions is very poor, and prices generally are easier. Linseed oil, [illegible], for April delivery, has declined to £13 7s. 6d., May-August being quoted £14 5s. Cotton oil is in slow request, and [illegible]

RAND MINES, LIMITED

(INCORPORATED IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA)

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1931.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

Capital Account—			
Authorised—2,500,000 shares of £1 each	£2,500,000	0	0
Issued— 94,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid	94,000	0	0
In reserve 2,156,000 shares of £1 each	2,156,000	0	0
Issued			£531,498 15 0
Note.—I.—Of the above Issued Capital, 5,000 ordinary shares are held by the Company.			
II.—The Directors have the power to increase the Capital of the Company from time to time by £118,501 5s. 0d.			
Investment Reserve Account—			
As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930	2,320,747	6	7
Add—Profit transferred from Appropriation Account for net amount of profits realised on new Investments purchased during the year ended 31st December, 1931, less book value of Investments sold, &c.	63,083	4	11
	2,383,830	11	6
Sub-Amount written off Investment Assets	221,360	1	1
			2,162,470 10 5
Creditors— For Dividends declared but unpaid, of which £41,396 11s. 6d. is payable in British Sterling	347,910	13	6
Sundry and Credit Balances, of which £11,640 5s. 2d. is payable in British Sterling	361,137	11	2
			609,048 4 8
General Reserve Account			100,000 0 0
Balance of Appropriation Account— Unappropriated			466,710 9 8
Contingent Liabilities.—There are Contingent Liabilities in respect of commitments to acquire and subscribe for shares in and to finance certain undertakings and for contracts open for the supply of Stores, &c.			
			£3,869,727 19 9

PROPERTY AND ASSETS.

By Mining Claims, Freehold Farm Properties and Freehold and Leasehold Town Properties			£31,359 9 4
„ Reservoirs and Pumping Plants			30,800 11 9
„ Participations in Ventures			28,402 0 0
„ Shares, Debentures, &c., at or below market value at 31st December, 1931, or where unquoted at Directors' Valuation:—			
	Shares of		
6,022 Cape Portland Cement Co., Ltd.	£1		
143,000 City Deep, Ltd.	£1		
17,853 Consolidated M.R. Mines and Est., Ltd.	£1		
601,795 Crown Mines, Ltd.	10s.		
57,166 Daggafontein Mines, Ltd.	£1		
146,750 Durban Roodeport Deep, Ltd.	10s.		
9,166 East Geduld Mines, Ltd.	£1		
56,239 East Rand Proprietary Mines, Ltd.	10s.		
34,072 Ferreira Estate Co., Ltd.	16s.		
706 Geduld Proprietary Mines, Ltd.	£1		
45,900 Geldenhuis Deep, Ltd.	£1		
114,300 General Estates, Ltd.	15s.		
4,000 Grootvlei Proprietary Mines, Ltd.	£1		
108,975 Modderfontein B. Gold Mines, Ltd.	5s.		
26,750 Modderfontein Deep Levels, Ltd.	5s.		
69,151 Modderfontein East, Ltd.	£1		
300,005 New Modderfontein G.M. Co., Ltd.	10s.		
500 Northern Lime Co., Ltd.	£1		
191,363 North Venezuelan Petroleum Co., Ltd.	£1		
48,740 Nourse Mines, Ltd.	£1		
79,726 Onverwacht Platinum, Ltd.	10s.		
29,320 Pretoria Portland Cement Co., Ltd.	£1		
82,400 Rose Deep, Ltd.	£1		
56,250 Siparia Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd.	£1		
50,000 South African Coal Ests. (Witbank), Ltd.	£1		
34,606 The Hume Pipe Co. (S.A.), Ltd.	10s.		
70,000 The Victoria Syndicate, Ltd.	£1		
12,400 The Anglo-Spanish Construction Co., Ltd.	£1		
£248,000 The Anglo-Spanish Construction Co., Ltd.	6% Deb.		
	Shares of		
28,050 Transvaal Con. Land and Explor. Co., Ltd.	10s.		
44,600 Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.	£1		
95,000 Tocuyo Oilfields of Venezuela, Ltd.	£1		
72,380 Village Deep, Ltd.	9s. 6d.		
41,595 Witbank Colliery, Ltd.	£1		
£24,250 Witbank Colliery, Ltd.	7% Deb.		
			2,347,978 11 3
Sundry Shares, Debentures, &c.			98,448 13 8
„ Rand Mines, Ltd., Shares— 80,844 ex-enemy shares at cost			166,979 19 5
„ Buildings, Plant, Stores, Vehicles, Furniture, &c.			6,731 16 7
„ Debtors and Debit Balances, of which *£17,604 0s. 6d. is receivable in British Sterling			298,893 17 2
„ Deposits, Fixed and on Call, of which *£349,147 7s. 2d. is receivable in British Sterling			492,995 16 5
„ Union of South Africa Government Stocks			143,056 9 11
„ Cash at Bankers and in Hand, of which *£551 6s. 2d. is in British Sterling			6,348 12 3
„ Dividends to be received on Shareholdings			227,733 2 0
			£3,869,727 19 9

* NOTE.—The exchange rate ruling on 31st December, 1931, for the conversion of British Sterling into South African currency was 18¼% discount.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.

To Dividend on Preferred Ties	£31,412	4	10
„ Investment Reserve Account— Realisations being amount invested in Investments purchased	63,083	4	11
„ General Account— Interim Dividends No. 55 and No. 57 of 2s. per unit, duly declared during the year	409,030	4	0
„ Balance Unappropriated—31st December, 1931	466,710	9	8
	£970,236	3	5

By Balance Unappropriated— As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930	£428,817	7	8
„ Balance of Profit and Loss Account— For the year ended 31st December, 1931	541,040	14	9
„ Forfeited Dividends Account	378	1	0
	£970,236	3	5

Report and Accounts, with General plan of properties, may be obtained from the London Secretaries A. BEIT & CO., No. 3 London Wall Buildings, London, E.C. 2.

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—				
Wheat—				
No. 2, N. Man. 496 lb.	30	0		
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	6	1		
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.	8	1		
Oats, „ „	7	5		
Maize, La Plata, landed 480 lb.	20	6		
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, 280 lb.	23	9		
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.	9	4½		
Tapioca, per cwt.—				
Fine Java, spot	27	0		
Fair Flake, Singapore	10	9		
MEAT—				
Beef, per 8 lbs.—				
English long sides	4	10	5	6
Argentine chilled hinds	4	0	4	4
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—				
English wethers	4	0	5	0
N.Z. frozen „	2	8	3	8
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.	5	4	5	8

OTHER FOODS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
BACON—				
Irish ... per cwt.	82	0		
Danish	54	0	56	0
Dutch	46	0	49	0
HAMS—				
Canadian	74	0		
American	71	0	72	0
BUTTER—				
Australian	104	0	106	0
New Zealand	107	0	109	0
Danish	118	0		
CHEESE—				
Canadian ... per cwt.	68	0	72	0
New Zealand	62	6	63	0
English Cheddars	94	0	110	0
Dutch	62	0	67	0
COCOA— (Duty, British grown, 11s. 8d.; foreign, 14s. cwt.).				
Accra, f.f. ... per cwt.	26	0	31	0
Trinidad	44	0	52	0
Grenada	33	0	40	0
COFFEE— (Duty, British grown, 11s. 8d.; foreign, 14s. cwt.).				
Santos supr., c. & f. cwt.	56	0		
Colombian, good	75	0	95	0
Costa Rica, med. to good	80	0	118	0
East Indian „ „	90	0	120	0
Kenya, medium	85	0	108	0
EGGS—				
English ... per 120	9	0	9	6
Danish	10	0	10	3
FRUIT—				
Oranges—				
South African ... boxes	...			
Jaffa	12	0	15	6
Lemons, Sicilian ... boxes	7	6	13	0
„ ... cases	10	0	20	0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	...			
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	24	0	30	0
„ (var.) boxes	8	9	14	0
„ Australian	...			
Onions:—				
Valencia, case, 4s.	15	0	16	6
Egyptian Bags	14	0	15	0
Grapes, Lisbon ... boxes	...			
„ Almeria ... brls.	...			

	s.	d.	s.	d.
LARD—				
Irish bladders	66	0	80	0
American, boxes, 56 lbs.	40	0	41	6
POTATOES—				
Good English, per cwt.	12	0	12	6
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White	0	8		
Black Lampong	0	6½		
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	0	7½		
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	8		
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	25	0		
Jamaica, ord. to good	55	0	85	0
Mace ... per lb.	0	8	1	9
Nutmegs 65s	1	5		
SUGAR— (Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.).				
B.W.I., crystallised	18	0	20	6
Java, white, c. & f. India March-April	8	0		
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals	18	7½		
Cubes	23	0	23	6
Crushed	21	0	21	6
Granulated	19	1½	19	10½
Home Grown	18	9	18	10½
TEA—				
Indian—per lb.—				
Pekoe	Holiday			
Broken Pekoe	Holiday			
Orange Pekoe	Holiday			
Broken Orange Pekoe	Holiday			
Ceylon—per lb.—				
Pekoe	Holiday			
Broken Pekoe	Holiday			
Orange Pekoe	Holiday			
Broken Orange	Holiday			
TOBACCO— (Duty 9/6–10/6½ per lb., Empire growths, 7/5½–8/3½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	3	0
Rhodesian leaf	0	10	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	6
„ strips	0	10	1	8
East Indian leaf	0	4	0	8
„ strips	0	5½	1	3

TEXTILES.

COTTON—				
Mid-American ... per lb.	4·94			
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.	6·80			
Yarns, 32's twist	8½			
„ 60's twist	14½			
FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ... per ton	47	0		
Pernau HD	44	0		
Slanetz Medium 1st sort	51	0	52	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. ... per ton	42	0		
Manila, Mar.–May "J 2"	18	0		
Sisal, African, Mar.–May	14	0	15	0
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks. ... per ton c.i.f. H.A.R.B. March–April	£18/5/0			
Daisee 2/3 c.i.f. Dundee... March–April	£17/0/0			
SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ... per lb.	8	6	10	6
Tussah	4	0	6	0
Japan	7	6	10	0
Italian—raw, fr. Milan	9	6	12	0

WOOL—	d.			
English Southdown, washed per lb.	12½			
„ Lincoln hog, washed	7			
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	20			
N.S.W. greasy, super „	10½			
N.Z., gray., half-bred 50–56	10			
Tops— Crossbred 40–44	5			
Merinos 70's	23			
„ 64's	22			
Crossbred 48's	10½			
„ 46's	9½			

MINERALS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
COAL—				
Welsh, best Ad'ty ... ton	19	6		
Durham, best gas, f.o.b. Tyne	14	6		
Sheffield, best house, at pits	21	6	23	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No. 3, ton	58	6		
Bars, M'brough	200	0		
Steel Rails, heavy	170	0		
Tin Plates, per box	16	0		
METALS—	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	35/0/0		37/0/0	
Sheets (strong)	66/0/0			
Standard	31/12/6		31/15/0	
Lead Eng. Pig. ... ton ton	13/0/0			
Soft Foreign	11/15/0			
Spelter G.O.B.	11/15/0			
Tin—English ingots	122/10/0			
Standard cash	120/10/0		120/15/0	

MISCELLANEOUS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
CHEMICALS—				
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	1½	1	2
Nitric	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2	1	2½
Alcohol, Plain Ethyl	13	0	0	0
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump ... per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	7	0	7	10
Arsenic, lump ... per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ... per cwt.	13	0		
Do. powder	14	6		
Nitrate of Soda ... per cwt.	8	6	9	0
Potash—Chlorate, net	0	3½	0	3¾
Sulphate ... per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. ... per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate of Copper, per ton	18	10	19	10
CEMENT, London—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton				
In jute sacks (11 to ton)	44	9	46	9
In free paper bags (20 to ton)	46	0	48	0
COPRA—	£ s. d.			
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton	15/10/0			
Smoked South Sea	14/7/6			
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined ... per lb.	2	7	2	8
Castor-oil ... per lb.	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha ... per lb.	5	3		
Peppermint, Wayne Co.				
HIDES— per lb.	9	3	9	6
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	5½
West Indian	0	3	0	3½
Cape	0	3½	0	3¾

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Market Hides, London—				
Dry and Drysalted Caps.—				
Best heavy ox and heifer	[illegible]			
Best cow	[illegible]			
Best calf	[illegible]			
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. mid.-vio. to fine—per lb.	[illegible]			
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/10 lb.—per lb.				
Bark Tanned Sole	[illegible]			
Shoulders fm D8 Hides	[illegible]			
Do. Eng. or WS do.	[illegible]			
Bellies from D8 do.	[illegible]			
Do. Eng. or WS do.	[illegible]			
Dressing Hides	[illegible]			
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	[illegible]			
Aust. Bends	[illegible]			
VEGETABLE OILS—				
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	[illegible]			
Rape, refined	[illegible]			
Cotton-seed, crude	[illegible]			
Coconut, crude	[illegible]			
Palm	[illegible]			
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng. per ton	[illegible]			
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton— March–April	[illegible]			
Calcutta—per ton—	[illegible]			
Turpentine, per cwt.	[illegible]			
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—	s.	d.		
Motor spirit, No. 1, London ... per gal.	1	[illegible]		
Petroleum, Amer. rfd. brl. London per gal.	[illegible]			
Fuel oil, in bulk, for contracts, ex instal. Thames—				
Furnace ... per ton	[illegible]			
Diesel „ „ „	[illegible]			
Lubricating oil ex store, London—per ton—				
Pale	[illegible]			
Reds	[illegible]			
Cylinder	[illegible]			
ROSIN—	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
American ... per ton	[illegible]			
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
St. ribbed smoked sheet per lb.	0	[illegible]		
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	[illegible]		
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	[illegible]			
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. „	[illegible]			
TALLOW—	s.	d.		
London Town per cwt.	[illegible]			
TIMBER—	£	s.	d.	
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	[illegible]			
„ 2½ x 7 „	[illegible]			
„ 2 x 4 „	[illegible]			
Can'dn Spruce, Dls „	[illegible]			
Pitchpine ... per load	[illegible]			
Rio Deals ... per std.	[illegible]			
Teak ... per load	[illegible]			
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	[illegible]			
African „ „	[illegible]			
Amer. Oak Boards „	[illegible]			
„ Ash „ „	[illegible]			
English Oak Planks „	[illegible]			
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Egyptian offering at £21 and refined at £23 10s. prompt without attracting buyers. Oilcakes are in only moderate demand, and late figures are barely maintained.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.—No auctions for hides and skins will be held this week, supplies having been sold for a fortnight owing to the Easter holiday. Generally speaking, the tone of the market is weak, as offerings can only be disposed of at fractional reductions in prices. Quiet conditions have been experienced in regard to imported hides, as for the most part sales have been confined to small parcels, and this despite the fact that quotations for most descriptions are now on a fairly low basis. With the small amount of business passing in South American wet-salted hides, it is thought that producers would be prepared to accept a reduction, and 4½d. is the figure now being mentioned for Argentine ox, while light ox have changed hands at a fraction over 4¼d. Trade in dry South American hides is very restricted, with B.A. Americanos offered at 6d., Inservibles at 3¾d., M.V. Americanos at 6½d., and Cuyabanos at 5½d. Some business has been done in Africans at reduced figures. Capes have been disposed of at 5¾d. and 4¾d. for first and seconds drys, while dry-salted 20/30 lbs. are obtainable at round 5d. and 4d. for the same selections. A few sales have been made of unbathed Adis Ababas at 5½d., while Mombasas have changed hands at 4¾d. for mediums. There is no change to report regarding trade in Australian hides; a limited amount of business has been done, but prices are still considered too high. Both the sole and upper leather markets have been very quiet this week owing to the fact that many of the shoe factories have not yet resumed work. Activities for the most part have been confined to the execution of small filling up orders received previous to the holiday break, and the dispatch of small quantities of bends suitable for repair purposes. In the upper leather sections what business that has come to hand has been on account of glacé kid, reptiles and patent, but turnover has been of no consequence.

RUBBER.—Owing to the Easter holidays, business has been partially suspended. There has been no further development since the announcement against restriction. The market was dull, and prices are scarcely changed on the week. In New York, Tuesday's spot price for rubber at 2¾ cents per lb., shows no change on the week. Tuesday's official closing price for standard ribbed smoked sheet in London, at 1⅞d. per lb., shows a fall of ⅛d., as compared with the corresponding day last week. In forward positions, business has been done at 2⅛d. for October-December, as against 2⅛d. to 2$\frac{3}{16}$d. a week ago. Movements of rubber in London and Liverpool during the past week were as follows: Landed, 605 tons; delivered, 1,305 tons; stocks at the end of last week, at 125,236 tons, show a decrease of 700 tons, as compared with the preceding week.

COMMODITY PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES.

(New York quotations, unless otherwise stated.)

	Mar. 2. Cents.	Mar. 22. Cents.	Mar. 29. Cents.
Wheat, No. 2, Winter, nearest future, Chicago, per bushel	57½	60¾	[illegible]
Maize, nearest future, Chicago, per bushel	36	33¾	37
Oats, nearest future, Chicago, per bushel	22	23½	24¾
Rye, nearest future, Chicago, per bushel	44½	44¾	[illegible]
Coffee, Rio No. 7, cash, per lb.	7–7½	7–7½	7–7½
„ Santos No. 4, cash, per lb.	9–9½	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cocoa, Accra, nearest future, per lb.	4·30	4·31	4·[illegible]
Sugar, Cuban Centrifugals, 96 deg., spot, per lb.	2·87	2·74	2·70
Cotton, New Orleans, middling, spot, per lb.	7·02	6·61	6·[illegible]
Rubber, smoked sheet, spot, per lb.	3½	3½	3¾
Petroleum, Pennsylvania crude, standard grades, per barrel	155–170	155–170	155–170
Copper, "Electrolytic," Domestic, spot, per lb.	5¾	6	6
Copper, "Electrolytic," Copper Exporters, Inc., spot, per lb.	5¾	6¼	6¼
Spelter, East St. Louis, spot, per lb.	2·75	2·775	2·[illegible]
Lead, spot, per lb.	3·25	3·15	3·[illegible]
Tin, "Straits," spot, per lb.	22·15	21·75	21·[illegible]

GOVERNMENT GOLD MINING AREAS
(MODDERFONTEIN) CONSOLIDATED, LTD.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

Issued Capital, £1,400,000 in 5,600,000 Shares of 5s. each.

DIRECTORATE.

J. B. JOEL, J.P. (Chairman).
J. H. CROSBY (Deputy-Chairman). SIR REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E. J. G. LAWN, C.B.E.
C. IRROTH. D. CHRISTOPHERSON, C.B.E. and G. J. JOEL, M.C.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1931.

Tons crushed, 2,626,000, yielding 1,129,579 fine ounces of gold.

		Per ton, based on tonnage crushed.
Total Working Revenue	£4,220,742 10 4	£1 16 7
Total Working Costs	2,087,625 14 11	0 17 2
Working Profit	£2,732,116 15 5	£1 2 5
Profits, Interest and Sundry Revenue	25,226 12 7	
Balance at 31st December, 1930, brought forward	80,179 6 10	
	£2,838,523 0 10	
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—		
Government's Share of Profits	£1,022,927 19 4	
Taxation—Union and Provincial	10,023 6 0	
Miners' Phthisis Insurance, Donations and Depreciation	3,650 10 10	
Contribution in respect of outstanding liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	18,504 4 1	
Capital Expenditure	1,195 17 11	
Dividends Nos. 34 and 35 of 65 per cent. each	1,800,000 0 0	
	2,756,431 18 2	
Leaving a balance carried forward of	£116,291 2 8	

The Payable Ore Reserves at the end of the year were estimated at 10,510,000 tons with an average value of 8.9 dwts. over a stoping width of 60 inches; they included ore of a value of 4 dwts. and over.

The full Report and Accounts may be obtained from the London Agents, The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., Ltd., Mill, Austin Friars, London, E.C. 2.

NEW STATE AREAS, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

Issued Capital - - £1,514,037 in Shares of £1 each.
Six per Cent. Debentures - - £186,600.

DIRECTORATE:

J. B. JOEL, J.P. (Chairman). J. H. CROSBY (Deputy-Chairman).
SIR REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E. J. G. LAWN, C.B.E. G. J. JOEL, M.C.
A. J. ANDERSON and W. S. WEBBER.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1931.

Tons crushed, 969,000, yielding 479,205 fine ounces of gold.

		Per ton, based on tonnage crushed.
Total Working Revenue	£2,042,462 9 7	£2 2 8
Total Working Costs	1,084,051 12 8	1 2 8
Working Profit	958,410 16 11	£1 0 0
Profits, Interest and Sundry Revenue	18,402 0 0	
Balance at 31st December, 1930, brought forward	77,518 19 2	
	£1,054,331 16 1	
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—		
Government's Share of Profits	£252,732 4 7	
Taxation—Union and Provincial	46,157 7 0	
Miners' Phthisis Insurance, Donations and Depreciation	12,656 0 0	
Contribution in respect of Outstanding Liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	2,491 9 3	
Capital Expenditure	2,651 3 8	
Dividends Nos. 19 and 20 of 10 per cent. each	20,722 16 9	
	46,650 0 0	
	302,907 6 0	
	686,970 6 3	
Leaving a balance carried forward of	£367,361 6 10	

The Payable Ore Reserves at the end of the year were estimated at 2,737,000 tons, of an average value of 8·9 dwts. over a stoping width of 60 inches; they exclude ore valued at under 4·5 dwts. over the stoping width.

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THE PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON
LIMITED.

PROVIDENT HOUSE, 246, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

Founded 1877.

Authorised by Act of Parliament, Intituled Provident Association of London Act, 1910.

INVESTED FUNDS £10,958,718

Total Advances upon House Property to Policy-holders and Certificate-holders considerably exceed

SEVENTEEN MILLIONS

W. W. BENHAM, *Managing Director*. Provident House, 246, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—				
Wheat—				
No. 2, N. Man. 496 lb.	30	0		
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	6	1		
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.	8	1		
Oats, „ „	7	5		
Maize, La Plata, landed 480 lb.	20	6		
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, 280 lb.	23	9		
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.	9	4½		
Tapioca, per cwt.—				
Fine Java, spot	27	0		
Fair Flake, Singapore	10	9		
MEAT—				
Beef, per 8 lbs.—				
English long sides	4	10	5	6
Argentine chilled hinds	4	0	4	4
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—				
English wethers	4	0	5	0
N.Z. frozen „	2	8	3	8
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.	5	4	5	8

OTHER FOODS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
BACON—				
Irish per cwt.	82	0		
Danish	54	0	56	0
Dutch	46	0	49	0
HAMS—				
Canadian	74	0		
American	71	0	72	0
BUTTER—				
Australian	104	0	106	0
New Zealand	107	0	109	0
Danish	118	0		
CHEESE—				
Canadian per cwt.	68	0	72	0
New Zealand	62	6	63	0
English Cheddars	94	0	110	0
Dutch	62	0	67	0
COCOA— (Duty, British grown, 11s. 8d.; foreign, 14s. cwt.).				
Accra, f.f. per cwt.	26	0	31	0
Trinidad	44	0	52	0
Grenada	33	0	40	0
COFFEE— (Duty, British grown, 11s. 8d.; foreign, 14s. cwt.).				
Santos supr., c. & f. cwt.	56	0		
Colombian, good	75	0	95	0
Costa Rica, med. to good	80	0	118	0
East Indian „ „	90	0	120	0
Kenya, medium	85	0	108	0
EGGS—				
English per 120	9	0	9	6
Danish	10	0	10	3
FRUIT—				
Oranges—				
South African ...boxes	...			
Jaffa	12	0	15	6
Lemons, Sicilian ...boxes	7	6	13	0
„ ...cases	10	0	20	0
Malaga ...cases 420 No. 1	...			
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	24	0	30	0
„ (var.) boxes	8	9	14	0
„ Australian	...			
Onions:—				
Valencia, case, 4s.	15	0	16	6
Egyptian Bags	14	0	15	0
Grapes, Lisbon ... boxes	...			
„ Almeria ...brls.	...			

	s.	d.	s.	d.
LARD—				
Irish bladders	66	0	80	0
American, boxes, 56 lbs.	40	0	41	6
POTATOES—				
Good English, per cwt.	12	0	12	6
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White	0	8		
Black Lampong	0	6¾		
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	0	7½		
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	8		
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	25	0		
Jamaica, ord. to good	55	0	85	0
Mace per lb.	0	8	1	9
Nutmegs 65s	1	5		
SUGAR— (Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.).				
B.W.I., crystallised	18	0	20	6
Java, white, c. & f. India March-April	8	0		
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals	18	7½		
Cubes	23	0	23	6
Crushed	21	0	21	6
Granulated	19	1½	19	10½
Home Grown	18	9	18	10½
TEA—				
Indian—per lb.—				
Pekoe	Holiday			
Broken Pekoe	Holiday			
Orange Pekoe	Holiday			
Broken Orange Pekoe	Holiday			
Ceylon—per lb.—				
Pekoe	Holiday			
Broken Pekoe	Holiday			
Orange Pekoe	Holiday			
Broken Orange	Holiday			
TOBACCO— (Duty 9/6–10/6½ per lb., Empire growths, 7/5½–8/3½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	3	0
Rhodesian leaf	0	10	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	6
„ strips	0	10	1	8
East Indian leaf	0	4	0	8
„ strips	0	5½	1	3

TEXTILES.

COTTON—				
Mid-American per lb.	4·94			
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.	6·80			
Yarns, 32's twist	8¾			
„ 60's twist	14½			
FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK per ton	47	0		
Pernau HD	44	0		
Slanets Medium 1st sort	51	0	52	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. per ton	42	0		
Manila, Mar.–May "J 2"	18	0		
Sisal, African, Mar.–May	14	0	15	0
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks. ... per ton c.i.f. H.A.R.B. March–April	£18/5/0			
Daisee 2/3 c.i.f. Dundee... March–April	£17/0/0			
SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton per lb.	8	6	10	6
Tussah	4	0	6	0
Japan	7	6	10	0
Italian—raw, fr. Milan	9	6	12	0

	d.
WOOL—	
English Southdown, washed per lb.	12½
„ Lincoln hog, washed	7
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	20
N.S.W. greasy, super „	10½
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	10
Tops— Crossbred 40–44	5
Merinos 70's	23
„ 64's	22
Crossbred 48's	10½
„ 46's	9½

MINERALS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
COAL—				
Welsh, best Ad'ty ...ton	19	6		
Durham, best gas, f.o.b. Tyne	14	6		
Sheffield, best house, at pits	21	6	23	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No. 3, ton	58	6		
Bars, M'brough	200	0		
Steel Rails, heavy	170	0		
Tin Plates, per box	16	0		

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
METALS—		
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	35/0/0	37/0/0
Sheets (strong)	66/0/0	
Standard	31/12/6	31/15/0
Lead Eng. Pig. ...ton ton	13/0/0	
Soft Foreign	11/15/0	
Spelter G.O.B.	11/15/0	
Tin—English ingots	122/10/0	
Standard cash	120/10/0	120/15/0

MISCELLANEOUS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
CHEMICALS—				
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	1½	1	2
Nitric	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2	1	2½
Alcohol, Plain Ethyl	13	0	0	0
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	7	0	7	10
Arsenic, lump per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. per cwt.	13	0		
Do. powder	14	6		
Nitrate of Soda ... per cwt.	8	6	9	0
Potash—Chlorate, net	0	3½	0	3¾
Sulphate per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate of Copper, per ton	18	10	19	10
CEMENT, London—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton				
In jute sacks (11 to ton)	44	9	46	9
In free paper bags (20 to ton)	46	0	48	0
COPRA—	£ s. d.			
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton	15/10/0			
Smoked South Sea	14/7/6			
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined ... per lb.	2	7	2	8
Castor-oil per lb.	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha per lb.	5	3		
Peppermint, Wayne Co.				
HIDES— per lb.	9	3	9	6
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	5½
West Indian	0	3	0	3½
Cape	0	3½	0	3½

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Market Hides, London—				
Dry and Deposited Cups.—				
Best heavy ox and heifer	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Best cow	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Best calf	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. mid.-vio. to fine—per lb.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends [illegible] lb.—per lb.				
Bark Tanned Sole	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Shoulders fm. DS Hides	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Do. Eng. or WS do.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bellies from DS do.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Do. Eng. or WS do.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dressing Hides	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ro. Eng. Calf, [illegible] lb.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aust. Bends	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VEGETABLE OILS—	£			
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	[illegible]			
Rape, refined	[illegible]			
Cotton-seed, crude	[illegible]			
Coconut, crude	[illegible]			
Palm	[illegible]			
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng. per ton	[illegible]			
Oil Seeds—Linseed— La Plata, p. ton— March–April	[illegible]			
Calcutta—per ton—	[illegible]			
	s.	d.		
Turpentine, per cwt.	[illegible]	[illegible]		
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—	s.	d.		
Motor spirit, No. 1, London per gal.	1	[illegible]		
Petroleum, Amer. std. brl. London per gal.	0	[illegible]		
Fuel oil, in bulk, for contracts, ex instal. Thames—				
Furnace ... per ton	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Diesel „ „ „	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Lubricating oil ex store, London—per ton—				
Pales	[illegible]		[illegible]	
Reds	[illegible]		[illegible]	
Cylinder	[illegible]		[illegible]	
ROSIN—	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
American per ton	[illegible]		[illegible]	
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
St. ribbed smoked sheet per lb.	0	1⅞		
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	[illegible]		
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange per cwt.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. „	5	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
TALLOW—	s.	d.		
London Town per cwt.	23	[illegible]		

TIMBER—		£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8	per std.	17	[illegible]	[illegible]
„ 2½ x 7	„	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
„ 2 x 4	„	15	[illegible]	[illegible]
Can'dn Spruce, Dls	„	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pitchpine	per load	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rio Deals	per std.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Teak	per load	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Honduras Mahg. logs	c. ft.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
African „	„	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer. Oak Boards	„	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
„ Ash „	„	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
English Oak Planks	„	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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Rye, nearest future, Chicago, per bushel	44½	44½	[illegible]
Coffee, Rio No. 7, cash, per lb.	7–7½	7–[illegible]	7–[illegible]
„ Santos No. 4, cash, per lb.	9–9½	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cocoa, Accra, nearest future, per lb.	4·30	4·31	4·[illegible]
Sugar, Cuban Centrifugals, 96 deg., spot, per lb.	2·87	2·[illegible]	2·[illegible]
Cotton, New Orleans, middling, spot, per lb.	7·02	6·61	6·[illegible]
Rubber, smoked sheet, spot, per lb.	3½	3½	3½
Petroleum, Pennsylvania crude, standard grades, per barrel	155–170	155–170	155–170
Copper, "Electrolytic," Domestic, spot, per lb.	5¾	6	6
Copper, "Electrolytic," Copper Exporters, Inc., spot, per lb.	5½	6½	6½
Spelter, East St. Louis, spot, per lb.	2·75	2·[illegible]	3·[illegible]
Lead, spot, per lb.	3·25	3·15	3·[illegible]
Tin, "Straits," spot, per lb.	22·15	21·[illegible]	21·[illegible]

GOVERNMENT GOLD MINING AREAS
(MODDERFONTEIN) CONSOLIDATED, LTD.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

Issued Capital, £1,400,000 in 5,600,000 Shares of 5s. each.

DIRECTORATE.

J. B. JOEL, J.P. (Chairman).
J. H. CROSBY (Deputy-Chairman). SIR REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E. J. G. LAWN, C.B.E.
G. IEROTH. D. CHRISTOPHERSON, C.B.E. and G. J. JOEL, M.C.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1931.

Tons crushed, 2,436,000, yielding 1,129,879 fine ounces of gold.

		Per ton, based on tonnage crushed.
Gold Working Revenue	£4,830,742 10 4	£1 19 7
Gold Working Costs	2,097,625 14 11	0 17 2
Working Profit	£2,733,116 15 5	£1 2 5
Profit, Interest and Sundry Revenue	55,236 15 7	
Balance at 31st December, 1930, brought forward	90,179 6 10	
	£2,878,533 0 10	
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—		
Government's Share of Profits	£1,422,267 19 4	
Taxation—Union and Provincial	10,023 6 0	
Mines' Pthisis Sanatoria, Donations and Depreciation	2,650 10 10	
Contribution in respect of outstanding liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	18,504 4 1	
Capital Expenditure	1,195 17 11	
Dividends Nos. 23 and 24 of 6d per cent. each	1,300,000 0 0	
	£2,752,431 18 2	
Leaving a balance carried forward of	£116,201 2 8	

The Payable Ore Reserves at the end of the year were estimated at 10,510,000 tons with an average value of 3.9 dwts. over a stoping width of 60 inches; they included ore of a value of 4 dwts. and over.

The full Report and Accounts may be obtained from the London Agents, The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., Ltd., 2631, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2.

NEW STATE AREAS, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

Issued Capital - - £1,514,037 in Shares of £1 each.
Six per Cent. Debentures - - £186,600.

DIRECTORATE:

J. B. JOEL, J.P. (Chairman). J. H. CROSBY (Deputy-Chairman).
SIR REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E. J. G. LAWN, C.B.E. G. J. JOEL, M.C.
A. J. ANDERSON and W. S. WEBBER.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1931.

Tons crushed, 968,000, yielding 479,205 fine ounces of gold.

		Per ton, based on tonnage crushed.
Gold Working Revenue	£2,042,462 9 7	£2 2 8
Gold Working Costs	1,084,051 12 8	1 2 8
Working Profit	958,410 16 11	£1 0 0
Profit, Interest and Sundry Revenue	18,402 0 0	
Balance at 31st December, 1930, brought forward	77,518 19 2	
	£1,054,331 16 1	
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—		
Government's Share of Profits	£352,732 4 7	
Taxation—Union and Provincial	46,187 7 0	
Mines' Interest and Revenue	12,666 0 0	
Mines' Phthisis Sanatoria, Donations and Depreciation	2,491 9 2	
Contribution in respect of Outstanding Liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	2,651 3 8	
Capital Expenditure	20,722 18 9	
Dividends Redeemable	46,650 0 0	
Dividends Nos. 15 and 16 of 10 per cent. each	302,907 8 0	
	986,870 0 3	
Leaving a balance carried forward of	£67,461 6 10	

The Payable Ore Reserves at the end of the year were estimated at 2,737,000 tons, of an average value of 3·9 dwts. over a stoping width of 50 inches; they exclude ore valued at under 4·5 dwts. over the stoping width.

The full Reports and Accounts may be obtained from the London Agents, The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., 2631, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2.

THE PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON
LIMITED.

PROVIDENT HOUSE, 246, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

Founded 1877.

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Total Advances upon House Property to Policy-holders and Certificate-holders considerably exceed

SEVENTEEN MILLIONS

W. W. BENHAM, *Managing Director.* Provident House, 246, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2

VAN RYN DEEP, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

Issued Capital, £1,196,892, in Shares of £1 each.

DIRECTORATE:

J. H. CROSBY (Chairman).

J. B. JOEL, J.P.; SIR REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E.; J. G. LAWN, C.B.E.; SIR WILLIAM DALRYMPLE, K.B.E.; SIR ABE BAILEY, Bart.; G. J. JOEL, M.C.; and A. J. ANDERSON.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1931.

Tons crushed, 752,000, yielding 260,630 fine ounces of gold.

		Per ton, based on tonnage crushed.
Total Working Revenue	£1,145,018 17 6	30 1 1
Total Working Costs	807,110 5 11	21 0 1
Working Profit	£337,908 11 7	9 1 0
Rents, Interest and Sundry Revenue	12,778 17 6	0 3 4
Balance at 31st December, 1930, brought forward	89,683 9 1	2 7 4
	£440,368 18 2	
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—		
Taxation—Union and Provincial	£44,994 4 0	
Miners' Phthisis Sanatoria, Donations and Depreciation	1,279 0 5	
Royalty on ore from Brakpan Mines, Ltd.	987 16 6	
Contribution in respect of outstanding liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	15,827 12 5	
Capital Expenditure	6,280 3 8	
Dividends Nos. 36 and 37 of 12½ per cent. each	230,000 0 0	
		300,368 18 0
Leaving a balance carried forward of	£140,271 0 2	

The Payable Ore Reserves at the end of the year were estimated at 2,669,000 tons, with an average value of 6.7 dwts. over a stoping width of 48 inches.

The full Reports and Accounts may be obtained from the London Agents, The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., Ltd., 10/11, Austin Friars, London, E.C. 2.

THE LANGLAAGTE ESTATE AND GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

Issued Capital, £1,519,833 in Shares of £1 each.

DIRECTORATE:

J. B. JOEL, J.P. (Chairman).

J. H. CROSBY (Vice-Chairman), Sir REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E., J. G. LAWN, C.B.E., G. J. JOEL, M.C., F. L. MARX and Sir WILLEM VAN HULSTEYN.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1931.

Tons crushed, 963,000, yielding 317,660 fine ounces of gold.

		Per ton, based on tonnage crushed.
Total Working Revenue	£1,391,625 4 6	28 9 3
Total Working Costs	981,049 7 7	20 8 10
Working Profit	£370,575 16 5	7 14 5
Rents, Interest and Sundry Revenue	21,018 11 11	
Sales of Property, etc.	14,276 10 11	
Balance at 31st December, 1930, brought forward	169,284 8 5	
	£574,455 7 8	
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—		
Taxation—Union and Provincial	£51,745 8 6	
Government's share of profits (Bewaarplaatsen)	4,269 15 2	
Royalty on Ore	71 1 1	
Miners' Phthisis Sanatoria, Donations and Depreciation	1,857 0 11	
Contribution in respect of Outstanding Liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	34,788 1 1	
Capital Expenditure	3,949 6 10	
Dividends Nos. 30 and 31 of 10 per cent. each	300,000 12 0	
		401,682 5 7
Leaving a balance carried forward of	£172,772 2 1	

The Payable Ore Reserves at the end of the year were estimated at 1,100,000 tons, of an average value of 7.3 dwts. over a stoping width of 44 inches.

The full Reports and Accounts may be obtained from the London Agents, The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., 10/11, Austin Friars, London, E.C. 2.

DOMINION OF CANADA

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For Bank of Montreal, Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

G. C. CASSELS, Manager.

[illegible] Threadneedle Street, E.C.2.

1st April, 1932.

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